

Critical Event Debriefing Guide

Chapter 20: Debriefing After Critical or Traumatic Clinical Events

- ☐ Remove the student from the immediate area if appropriate; ensure they are physically safe
 - ☐ Find a private space within the same shift, even briefly — do not wait until post-conference
 - ☐ Ask directly: "Are you okay to continue your shift, or do you need a break?"
"I want to check in about what just happened. How are you doing?"
"There's no right way to feel about this. What's coming up for you?"
"Is there anything you need right now — to talk, to be alone, to call someone?"
 - ☐ Involve site chaplaincy or employee assistance resources if the student's distress is significant
 - ☐ Follow up in the next 24–48 hours, not just in the moment
 - ☐ Document that support was offered and what was provided
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From *The Clinical Faculty Complete Field Guide: Ready-to-Use Tools, Scripts, and Evidence-Based Guidance for Every Stage of the Clinical Rotation*.

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