It’s Monday of a brand new week on the general ward team in October. The residents have been on this rotation for about 2 weeks, and you are joining them as the new attending today. During the course of rounds, you notice that one of your interns, Chris, appears to be struggling. She appears visibly nervous while presenting, and she is fixated on every tiny detail, to the point where her presentations are taking her much longer than they should. Her notes are similarly overly detailed, and it takes her till 9 pm to send them to you. Of note, this is dramatically different from your experience working with Chris 2 months ago, when she was much more efficient and confident.

You bring your concerns up to your senior resident, who informs you that Chris has been acting differently since “a minor mistake” last week. Per her report, Chris missed writing an anti-epileptic medication during her admission med rec, and a patient subsequently had a short 30-second seizure on the floor. No other harm came to the patient, and the family was accepting and understanding of the error. The patient was discharged in good health 3 days later.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated