Primer for EPA COD4A - Assessing, resuscitating, & managing UNSTABLE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS - PATIENT CARE

This **Core of Discipline -COD EPA 4A** *(PGY2&3) focuses on clinical assessment and management of the unstable patient. The residents are expected to assess, resuscitate and manage unstable critically ill patients.*

Supervisor (staff and/or supervising fellow) does assessment based on direct* and indirect observation.

*Direct = unfiltered case review at the time of presentation, with validation of part of the history/physical by the supervisor followed by discussion of the management plan.

EPA MILESTONES: COD4 Unstable Patient – Patient Care

1. Prioritize patients on the basis of clinical presentations
2. Focus the assessment, performing in a time-effective manner without excluding key elements
3. Synthesize patient information to determine differential diagnosis
4. Develop and implement focused treatment strategies
5. Manage hemodynamic support, non-invasive ventilation, and monitoring
6. Lead resuscitation teams delivering Acute Cardiac Life Support or care directed at other unstable medical conditions
7. Triage a procedure or therapy, taking into account clinical urgency, potential for deterioration, and available resources
8. Determine the necessity and timing of referral to another health care professional
9. Organize the handover of care to the most appropriate physician or health care professional

HOW TO COMPLETE AN EPA ASSESSMENT:

1. You or the resident initiate the assessment. The assessment may be based on direct observation or case discussion.
2. You or the resident sign onto Elentra, and provide the assessment demographics. This can be done on the mobile phone or computer top.
3. From the list of milestones pertinent to the EPA, choose 2-3 milestones that are relevant to the activity, and indicate their performance level on each milestone you assessed, using the entrustment scale. You are not required to cover all milestones, but are welcome to.
4. Using the global entrustment scale, decide whether the resident can be entrusted overall to perform this activity with a similar case in the future. In general, residents are not expected to be entrustable early in a new stage of training, although this particular tool verifies skills that should have been learned in medical school.
5. Describe 2-3 strengths and 2-3 actions, or areas for improvement. Please provide detailed and actionable comments based on your observations of their performance.
6. Discuss your feedback with the resident.

Entrustment

Proficient
I viewed this performance as exemplary

Competent
I didn't need to act (coaching aside) for safety / minimal competence

Support
I provided minor redirection to ensure safety / minimal competence

Direction
I needed to provide major redirection

Intervention
I had to complete some / all of the EPA task / activity

GLOBAL ENTRUSTMENT SCALE (**Competent** and **Proficient** levels are entrustable)

What is CBD?

Competency By Design is the Royal College's model of Competence-Based Medical Education (CBME) which is an educational model that is…

- More oriented to **outcomes** rather than time in training (i.e. what trainee can DO)
- More **flexible** to learners' prior skills and current needs
- Training using a **coaching** approach with more regular feedback & entrustment decisions
- Enhanced **tracking** of learners' progress and performance

What is an EPA?

An Entrustable Professional Activity is a **unit of work** actually done during the clinician's day (e.g., admit a patient to hospital, carry out a procedure, lead a family meeting)

- There are **28 EPAs** for the PGY1-4 Internal Medicine training program
- Each EPA gets **assessed several times** for each resident
- Each EPA is made up of several "**milestones**"
- The EPAs increase in **complexity** through stages

Learn more about EPAs and CBD:

READ Factsheets:
CBD Terminology Click here
Improving feedback tips: Click here

WATCH
EPAs 101: Click here

VISIT
www.deptmedicine.utoronto.ca/cbme
for general information on resources and events.

Questions? CONTACT us at
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