EPA 2: Manage Patients with Complex, Multisystem Diseases in the NICU

Supervision Scale for This EPA

1. Trusted to observe only
2. Trusted to execute with direct supervision and coaching
3. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision for most simple and some complex cases
4. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision but may require discussion of information conveyed for a few complex cases
5. Trusted to execute without supervision

Description of the Activity

Neonates and infants with complex multi-system illnesses pose a more challenging and critical activity for the neonatologist. The components of this professional activity build upon those of managing neonates and infants with common illnesses. Managing patients with acute, complex, multisystem diseases requires additional knowledge and skills.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:

1. Developing a complex management plan to provide care to infants with a broad range of complex diseases that affect multiple organ systems. In addition to addressing and documenting the primary problem, documentation of admission and discharge criteria, and nutritional plans, the management plan must also address all comorbidities (actual and reasonably anticipated) requiring attention during the entire hospitalization, and case management issues such as special resources required during and after hospitalization.

2. Coordinating care with the interdisciplinary health care team. The complex neonate and infant in the inpatient setting requires the input of the many professionals on the health care team (e.g., nutritionist, pharmacist, advanced practitioner, discharge planner, social worker, other subspecialists); thus, the entrusted professional must be able to communicate and partner with both interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary professionals. This activity includes reconciling disparate opinions from other health care professionals and coordinating and prioritizing their input.

3. Managing uncertainties (personal, team, and family) is a critical skill since much of the care for these patients is not known or determined clearly in the existing medical evidence.

4. Delivering bad news. Unforeseen errors, life-threatening complications, and poor outcomes are more common in neonates and infants with acute, complex, multi-system disease, and the learner must be entrusted to communicate effectively and compassionately with families.
Entrustable Professional Activities
EPA 2 for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

Judicious Mapping to Domains of Competence

✓ Patient Care
✓ Medical Knowledge
✓ Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
✓ Interpersonal and Communication Skills
  Professionalism
✓ Systems-Based Practice
✓ Personal and Professional Development

Competencies Within Each Domain Critical to Entrustment Decisions*

| PC 9 | Counseling patients and families |
| MK 2 | Practicing EBM |
| PBLI 1 | Identifying gaps |
| ISC 4 | Working as a member of a health care team |
| SBP 2 | Coordinating care |
| PPD 8 | Dealing with uncertainty |

*Based on original Pediatrics Subspecialty Milestones ©2015 ACGME/ABP. All rights reserved.

Context for the EPA

Rationale: Neonatologists must be able to provide care for neonates and infants with a broad range of illness, including those who present with complex illness involving multiple systems and those who deteriorate after presenting with common, single-system diseases. Although most newborns requiring the care of a neonatologist will present at birth, in some circumstances, neonatologists may be expected to provide care to infants who have previously been well and at home.

Scope of Practice: It is beyond the scope of this document to consider the variety of contexts in which the neonatologist will practice. This document is intended to address the scope of knowledge and skills of the neonatologist working in the NICU, with a specific focus on patients with complex, multisystem diseases. Although the document enumerates several specific conditions pertinent to this EPA, this list is not intended to be comprehensive. Rather, it seeks to provide common or high-stakes examples of disease that would be captured by this EPA.