EPA 1: Provide Consultation to Other Health Care Providers Caring for Children

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 and discussion of information conveyed for selected simple and complex cases
4. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision and may require discussion of information conveyed but only for selected complex cases
5. Trusted to execute without supervision

Description of the Activity

A key role for the pediatrician is to provide consultation to health care providers, specialists, subspecialists, and health care agencies engaged in the care of children.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:

- Establishing and maintaining working relationships with the referring providers/agencies, marked by bi-directional communication
- Clarifying and focusing the clinical question to be addressed
- Gathering essential information from referring physician, organization, or health agency, as well as the patient(s) and family
- Communicating findings and recommendations to the patient and family, and the source of the referral (i.e., the requesting provider or health agency)
- Demonstrating content expertise in one’s area of pediatrics to provide consultation
- Navigating the relationship with the patient/family to be either supportive or directive (or some combination of the two) as needed over time

Judicious Mapping to Domains of Competence

- [X] Patient Care
- [X] Medical Knowledge
- [X] Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
- [X] Interpersonal & Communication Skills
- [X] Professionalism
- [ ] Systems-Based Practice
- [ ] Personal & Professional Development
Competencies Within Each Domain Critical to Entrustment Decisions

| PC 1: | Gather information       |
| MK 1: | Demonstrating knowledge  |
| MK 2: | Practicing EBM           |
| ICS 1:| Communicate with patients/families |
| ICS 4:| Working as a member of a health care team |
| ICS 5:| Consultative role        |

Context for the EPA

Rationale: Pediatricians can be considered specialists with content expertise in the health conditions of infants, children and adolescents. Depending on local resources and regulations, as well as a pediatrician’s scope of practice, they may be asked by health care providers or health agencies to provide judgment on health issues facing a single child, group of children, or population of children. Pediatricians must therefore demonstrate the requisite knowledge and communications skills to assess, document, and convey important findings, as well as maintain accessibility and accountability to fulfill the consultative role. They must also recognize their limitations and seek additional expertise from other specialists or subspecialists as necessary.

Scope of Practice: Family medicine physicians, general practitioners, other physicians (e.g., surgeons), mid-level providers, and children’s health or public health agencies may ask pediatricians to provide consultation. Before providing consultation, a pediatrician should consider whether or not he/she has the expertise to do so. If a pediatrician is unable to provide the consultation, they should suggest alternative specialty consultation and/or resources to the referring physician/agency. In providing consultation, pediatricians should be aware of any potential conflicts of interest and manage these accordingly.

Areas in which pediatricians should generally be able to provide a complete consultation:

- Newborn health issues not including critical care or surgical anomalies
- Common behavioral and developmental concerns and problems in infants and children
- Common mental health conditions of children and adolescents
- Interpretation of diagnostic tests based on age related normal values
- Interpretation of physical findings based on age related normal findings
- Management of common acute and chronic health conditions of children
- Recommendations on routine vaccination schedules or vaccine policies
- Recommendations on infection control procedures for daycare agencies and schools (based on local practices and regulations)
- Recommendations for common health screenings (newborn screening, vision, hearing)
- Recommendations for community resources for children
- Performing the procedures of a pediatrician
- Initial discussions with first responders
Areas in which pediatricians should generally seek additional consultation:

- Critical care issues for neonates, infants, children and adolescents, including major trauma evaluations
- Complex or serious mental health conditions in children and adolescents, (examples: suicidal or homicidal behavior, mental health conditions not responding to usual therapies)
- Complex or rare health conditions requiring medical or surgical subspecialty expertise
- Complex gynecologic issues in adolescent females, as well as pregnancy

Curricular Components That Support the Functions of the EPA

1. Establishing and maintaining working relationships with the referring providers/agencies, marked by bi-directional communication
   - Maintains availability, approachability and professionalism
   - Uses clear and effective communication skills
   - Responds in a timely manner

2. Clarifying and focusing the clinical question to be addressed
   - Reaches agreement with the referral source on the nature and urgency of the problem
   - Self-assesses as to whether one has the requisite expertise to address the issue. If unable to meet needs, suggests other resources as appropriate

3. Gathering essential information from referring physician, organization, or health agency, as well as the patient(s) and family
   - Assesses the patient/family’s understanding of the need for consultation and clarifies this as needed
   - Provides an independent assessment and confirmation of findings and recommendations
   - Focuses data gathering on the question at hand but does not ignore other critical information that may require additional evaluation/consultation
   - Demonstrates professional and patient-centered practices in working with patients and health agencies

4. Communicating findings and recommendations to the patient and family, and the source of the referral (i.e., the requesting provider or health agency)
   - Based on level of urgency of the issue, communicates with referral source using agreed upon modality
   - Prepares a timely summary of the consultation and recommendations in agreed upon format (EHR, written report or recommendations), which addresses the specific questions to be answered
   - Informs patient and family of findings and how this will be communicated to referral source

5. Demonstrating content expertise in one’s area of pediatrics to provide consultation
   - Demonstrates many domains of competence during the consultation process, particularly medical knowledge, patient care, systems-based practice and professionalism
   - Stays within one’s scope of practice as the consultant
   - Recognizes limitations and makes suggestions for other specialists/resources when appropriate
6. Navigating the relationship with the patient/family to be either supportive or directive (or some combination of the two) as needed over time

- Negotiates with the source of referral about the need for short-term or ongoing involvement in the care of the patient
- Ensures that confidence and reputation of the source of referral is maintained and upheld

Curricular Components Authors

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