EPA 11: Manage Information From a Variety of Sources for Both Learning and Application to Patient Care

Description of the Activity

The rapid expansion of information and technology requires physicians to develop expertise in accessing and managing information.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:

- Evaluating the quality of the information retrieved for informing patient care practice or one’s own professional development (e.g., EHR, social networks, the internet, journal articles)
- Accessing relevant information in a timely manner to facilitate patient care in the clinical setting
- Performing queries or searches of appropriate data resources to facilitate timely retrieval of relevant information
- Filtering data gathered by importance based on parameters such as reliability of the source, validity of the data and immediate usefulness for decision-making
- Interpreting and applying information in the context of clinical practice or one’s own professional development (e.g., the context of an individual patient or population of patients for whom one is caring, or the context of one’s own professional formation)
- Storing and managing information in a manner that optimizes retrieval and ensures protection of patient information
- Maintaining accountability for advancing knowledge and remaining up to date with information pertinent to one’s practice
- Recognizing and managing the ambiguity often inherent in data itself or its interpretation
- Developing and maintaining proficiency with technology to facilitate patient care

Judicious Mapping to Competencies Critical to Entrustment Decisions*

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<th>PBLI 1:</th>
<th>Evidence-Based and Informed Practice</th>
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<td>PBLI 2:</td>
<td>Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth</td>
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### Entrustable Professional Activities
**EPA 11 for General Pediatrics**

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<th>ICS 1:</th>
<th>Patient- and Family- Centered Communication</th>
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<td>PPD 8:</td>
<td>Dealing with Uncertainty</td>
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### Context for the EPA

**Rationale:** Pediatricians are required to access and manage information in a timely manner to facilitate safe and effective patient care. This skill includes the ability to assess the accuracy and quality of sources and interpret them to ensure effective care and communication with patients, caregivers, and other providers. Pediatricians are also expected to participate in continued personal and professional development to ensure awareness of emerging information and technology relevant to scope of practice and improving patient outcomes.

**Scope of Practice:** A pediatrician must demonstrate a level of expertise in accessing and interpreting accurate information relevant to diagnosis and management of pediatric patients from birth to young adulthood. Expertise includes identifying valid resources in a timely manner and applying information in a context necessary to provide knowledgeable and skilled patient care or promote continued professional development. Identifying gaps in knowledge and recognizing limits within one’s scope of practice are vital to guiding learning activities and setting experience-specific goals for professional development. A pediatrician should be able to frame a clinical question that is answerable within the medical literature. In addition, a pediatrician must recognize when clinical ambiguity is present and utilize evidence-based resources to support decision-making in the setting of uncertainty. Performing queries of applicable resources and medical literature is essential to retaining familiarity with current patient care guidelines and practices. As information technology continues to advance, pediatricians are responsible for maintaining the skills necessary to assess the quality, reliably retrieve, and store data in compliance with protecting patient privacy.