### Curricular Components for General Pediatrics EPA 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. EPA Title</th>
<th>Refer patients who require consultation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2. Description of the activity | Referring patients for consultation for issues outside the scope of the pediatrician’s knowledge and skills is critical to performance in practice. The specific functions which define this EPA include:  
- Making appropriate decisions to refer based on knowledge of referral guidelines  
- Making the referral and ensuring its completion  
- Appropriately providing post-referral patient care, coordination, and follow-up |
| 3. Judicious mapping to domains of competence |  
- _X_ Patient Care  
- _X_ Medical Knowledge  
- ___ Practice-based Learning and Improvement  
- _X_ Interpersonal & Communication Skills  
- ___ Professionalism  
- ___ Systems-based Practice  
- _X_ Personal & Professional Development |
| 4. Competencies within each domain critical to entrustment decisions |  
- PC 6: Using optimal clinical judgment  
- PC 9: Counseling patients and families  
- MK 1: Demonstrating knowledge  
- ICS 1: Communicating with patients/families  
- PPD-1: Engaging in help-seeking behaviors  
- PPD 8: Dealing with uncertainty |
| 5. Curricular Components that support the functions of the EPA (knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to execute this EPA safely): |  
**Rationale:** Pediatricians must be able to anticipate, diagnose, and manage the health and medical needs of a broad spectrum of patients. Additionally, pediatricians must understand their own limitations in the context of their clinical practice and recognize those medical conditions that require further consultation and referral.  
**Scope of Practice:** The scope of practice for this EPA includes patients of all ages from newborn to young adulthood. A generalist is expected to manage the common problems that occur in these patients, but certain conditions will require consultation with a specialist or health care agency. Appropriate referral of patients for issues outside of the scope of expertise is part of the pediatrician’s responsibility to patients and families.  
**Curricular components that support the function of the EPA:** |

Making appropriate decisions to refer based on knowledge of referral guidelines

- Applies medical knowledge to reach preliminary problem identification.
- Recognizes limitations and accesses information such as guidelines, expert opinion, and evidence in the literature.
- Discusses the reason for referral with family/patient, shares the diagnostic and/or therapeutic goals of the referral, and addresses any concerns.
- Exercises proper judgment regarding decision to refer by applying all relevant gathered data, evidence, and family/patient considerations.

Making the referral and ensuring its completion

- Determines acuity of patient and decides on the urgency of the referral.
- Performs the appropriate pre-referral assessment: laboratory tests, imaging, etc.
- Recognizes and assists in managing the logistics of the referral: how patient will make an appointment, access to specialty given identified urgency, insurance issues, etc.
- Clarifies understanding and agreement of plan with the family, including the reason for referral, expected time frame, logistics, and roles for family/patients, referring provider, and consultant.
- Communicates with the consultant, using appropriate method of communication (phone, written referral, etc.) based on urgency of consultation, and provides a clear referral request containing the key information necessary.

Appropriately providing post-referral patient care, coordination, and follow-up

- Reviews consultant report, or follows-up with consultant in the absence of a report, with the goal of identifying any next steps for patient care, including clarification of findings, procedures performed, recommendations, and/or ongoing management issues.
- Provides ongoing patient care as needed and refers back to specialist for indicated follow-up and/or complications.
- Collaborates with family regarding referral process and results.

Authors:

Sue Poynter (lead), Marsha Anderson, Ann Burke, Michael Barone and the General Pediatrics EPA Curricular Elements workgroup, Sharon Calaman, Anna Kuo, Jerry Larrabee, Kenya McNeal Trice

References: