



Entrustable Professional Activities

EPA 2 for Pediatric Hospital Medicine

EPA 2: Direct and Coordinate Care for Patients with Unclear Diagnoses and Complex Patients

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 most simple and some complex cases
4. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision but may require discussion of information conveyed for a few simple cases
5. Trusted to execute without supervision

Description of the Activity

Hospitalized children with unclear diagnoses or complex conditions require a thoughtful, stepwise, coordinated, cost-effective, and patient-centered approach to diagnosis and treatment. Diagnostic decision-making, management, and coordination of care for these patients are essential skills required of pediatric hospitalists.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:

1. Reviewing and synthesizing pertinent patient information from past health records, providers, and patients/families
2. Applying knowledge of the patient's chronic disease processes and medical devices to manage the patient
3. Recognizing and managing diagnostic and therapeutic uncertainty
4. Role modeling patient/family-centeredness through shared decision making
5. Leading a multidisciplinary and interprofessional health care team to ensure efficient, collaborative and patient-centered care coordination
6. Managing conflict and advocating for patients when there are differing medical opinions

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 4:	Interviewing patient
MK 2:	Practicing EBM
PBLI 1:	Identifying gaps



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ICS 1:	Communicating with patients/families
ICS 3:	Communicating with health professionals
ICS 4:	Working as a member of a health care team
SBP 2:	Coordinating care
PPD 8:	Dealing with uncertainty

Context for the EPA

Rationale: The number of children with special health care needs has increased in recent decades, resulting in a greater proportion of hospitalized pediatric patients with medical complexity or reliance on medical devices. Care coordination for these children has been reported to result in clinical and process improvements, reduced health care costs, and improved patient and family satisfaction. In addition, pediatric hospitalists provide patient care for hospitalized children with unclear diagnoses (i.e., undifferentiated patients).

Scope of Practice: Pediatric hospitalists working in a variety of practice settings routinely care for children with undifferentiated conditions, medical complexity, and/or medical devices. In addition, pediatric hospitalists are often the physician leaders of complex care services, designed to address the needs of the most medically complex pediatric patients during hospitalization. A comprehensive set of skills is necessary to advocate for patients and families while providing high-value, efficient, and safe care.

Curricular Components That Support the Functions of the EPA

1. Reviewing and synthesizing pertinent patient information from past health records, providers, and patients/families
 - Participates in effective patient handoffs and transfers of care when assuming care of a patient from a colleague, referring provider, or institution
 - Obtains and reviews pertinent medical records related to acute care episode and chronic or longitudinal care
 - Communicates directly with primary care and subspecialty providers to obtain additional information and insight into patient's medical and psychosocial conditions
 - Conducts an independent, comprehensive, and accurate history and physical exam
 - Synthesizes information from multiple sources to formulate a patient assessment
2. Applying knowledge of the patient's chronic disease processes and medical devices to manage the patient
 - Utilizes clinical reasoning skills to develop a prioritized differential diagnosis that reflects both acute and chronic conditions
 - Determines the need for specific tests, interventions, and local or remote subspecialty consultation
 - Initiates a prioritized diagnostic evaluation and therapeutic management plan that is patient-centered, high-value, and safe
 - Employs both curative and palliative treatments when appropriate
 - Identifies opportunities to address whole child issues, such as nutrition, behavior, and preventive care
 - Describes indications, contraindications, risks, and benefits for placement of common medical devices
 - Recognizes and manages routine and emergency complications associated with medical devices
3. Recognizing and managing diagnostic and therapeutic uncertainty



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- Acknowledges when uncertainty arises among self or others and responds with appropriate measures
 - Recognizes potential detrimental effects of uncertainty on patients, families, and health care providers, including overuse of tests and treatments, diagnostic error, and psychosocial stress
 - Appropriately uses evidence-based diagnostic support tools and subspecialty consultation to address uncertainty and avoid diagnostic error
 - Addresses concerns of the patients and families and uses established communication techniques (e.g., shared decision making) to manage uncertainty
 - Creates a multistep contingency plan that acknowledges uncertainty and allows for alternative assessments, diagnoses, and treatments
4. Role modeling patient/family-centeredness through shared decision making
- Respects patient and family expertise with regard to information about the medical conditions, personal circumstances, and goals for health care and quality of life
 - Partners with patients and families to make medical decisions based on clinical evidence that balances risks and expected outcomes with patient preferences and values
 - Demonstrates sensitivity to patient/family religious and cultural values and integrates these into discussions
 - Recognizes when personal perspective and bias may influence care and adapts accordingly
5. Leading a multidisciplinary and interprofessional health care team to ensure efficient, collaborative and patient-centered care coordination
- Seeks collaboration and demonstrates respect for the skills and contributions of all team members
 - Demonstrates excellent expressive and receptive communication skills in all interactions
 - Determines the goals of hospitalization in collaboration with the patient, family, and medical home, recognizing that it may be a phase of more longitudinal care
 - Coordinates hospital care in an efficient manner, prioritizing high value care and optimizing patient throughput
 - Coordinates discussions with providers to provide single clear message to patients and families
 - Leads an interdisciplinary and/or family care conference when necessary
 - Implements a multidisciplinary transition plan for hospital discharge, including information about correct use and care of medical devices and emergency response instructions
6. Managing conflict and advocating for patients when there are differing medical opinions
- Ensures patient and family goals of care are primary considerations in addressing and resolving conflict
 - Manages conflict constructively using a variety of strategies to unify the team and resolve problems
 - Builds consensus among team members based on available evidence, hospital policies, and related issues
 - Manages ethical dilemmas and utilizes hospital ethics committee when appropriate

EPA and Curricular Components Authors

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