EPA 1: Effectively Advocate for Children and Families Affected by Developmental Behavioral Disorders

Supervision Scale for This EPA

1. Trusted to observe only
2. Trusted to contribute to advocacy activities with direct supervision and coaching at the individual family and/or community level
3. Trusted to conduct advocacy activities with indirect supervision at the individual family and/or community level
4. Trusted to mentor others and effectively lead advocacy activities at the local and/or state level without supervision
5. Trusted to effectively lead advocacy activities at the regional and/or national level without supervision

Description of the Activity

Developmental-behavioral pediatricians (DBPs) should actively contribute to the design and implementation of programs to improve the functioning of their individual patients and should also advocate for policies that will positively impact others with developmental and/or behavioral disorders on a regional, state, or national level.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:

1. Demonstrating an understanding of needs assessments, program planning, maintenance, and quality assurance of services for individuals with developmental and behavioral disorders
2. Advocating for individuals with developmental and behavior disorders to receive appropriate habilitative, therapeutic, and accommodative services
3. Applying the principles of population based public health to advocate for public policy to meet the needs of individuals with developmental and behavioral disorders and their families
4. Applying strategies for communication and dissemination of information that will inform policy to public officials and engage other professionals and families

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
**Entrustable Professional Activities**

**EPA 1 for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics**

**Competencies Within Each Domain Critical to Entrustment Decisions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC 4:</th>
<th>Interviewing patients</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLBI 4:</td>
<td>Analyzing practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICS 4:</td>
<td>Working as a member of a health care team</td>
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<td>SBP 1:</td>
<td>Working in care delivery settings and systems</td>
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<td>SBP 4:</td>
<td>Advocating for quality</td>
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<td>SBP 5:</td>
<td>Working in interprofessional teams</td>
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<td>SBP 7:</td>
<td>Advocating for the promotion of health</td>
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<td>PPD 6:</td>
<td>Providing leadership to improve care</td>
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**Context for the EPA**

**Rationale:** DBPs are one of the very few medical specialists with the expertise to advocate specifically for individuals with developmental and behavioral disorders and their families. DBPs have a unique perspective on the services and corresponding rights that these individuals need and understand the complexity in fulfilling these requirements. DBPs understand the changing needs these individuals have as they grow and develop and how the support system surrounding them must adapt. In addition, the physicians’ standing and reputation in their communities makes them potentially powerful advocates for all individuals with developmental and/or behavioral disorders and their families. Third-party payers for developmental and behavioral treatments operate within limited public policy and regulations, which allows for inconsistent availability of evidence-based treatments at different ages and in different geographic locations.

**Scope of Practice:** DBPs provide medically based services to patients with a broad spectrum of developmental and behavioral concerns from infancy through adulthood. They must be competent in working as a member of interprofessional teams that may include special educators, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, teachers, and administrators. DBPs are uniquely qualified to understand the “whole child” with developmental and behavioral disorders and to specify these needs more completely. DBPs can also advocate for the needs of the population of individuals with developmental and behavioral disorders. DBPs understand the broad range of disabilities and have the knowledge and expertise to understand the current literature to determine which therapies and treatments are most effective and therefore which should be advocated for locally or nationally.