Curricular Components That Support the Functions of EPA 4: Introduce and Facilitate the Integration of Palliative Care for Patients with Advanced Disease

1. Communicating effectively with children, adolescents, and family members at all points along the trajectory of illness, starting at diagnosis. ICS 1, ICS 2, PC 9, P- Prof, PPD 7
   • Demonstrates effective communication skills in educating patients and families and providing appropriate information to help guide patients and families with shared medical decision-making
   • Provides basic counseling to the bereaved and demonstrates the ability to identify when additional psychosocial referral is required

2. Eliciting the goals of care using a patient- and family-centered approach that is respectful of cultural and religious diversity. PC4, ICS1, ICS2, P-CC, PPD 7
   • Recognizes and respects unique characteristics of patient’s and families’ values and goals of care
   • Demonstrates sensitivity to cultural and religious diversity
   • Demonstrates empathy and compassion during communication and adapts the discussion based on the emotional response of the patient and family
   • Leads key events in patient’s care such as family meetings, advance directive completion, consultation around goals of care, withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies, and palliative sedation
   • Recognizes ethical dilemmas that arise in the care of these patients and identifies resources and strategies for addressing them

3. Engaging in high quality symptom management to ensure physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. PC7, P-H, P- Prof Cond, PPD 7
   • Performs a thoughtful and comprehensive symptom assessment
   • Uses evidence-based pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies and modifies treatment plan based on response and toxicities
   • Involves multidisciplinary team members in addressing patient and family needs
   • Recognizes symptoms of impending death and provides appropriate support
   • Demonstrates effective communication skills and ability to manage conflict

4. Including interdisciplinary professionals to optimize patient care ICS 3, ICS 6, P- Prof Cond, SBP2, PPD7
   • Evaluates and coordinates interdisciplinary care planning, management, and follow-up of patients with serious illness
   • Utilizes the multidisciplinary team to explore and clarify patient and family values and goals of care
   • Demonstrates consultative skills
   • Demonstrates effective communication skills within and across health care systems
   • Incorporates and coordinates appropriate multidisciplinary care and provides transitions of care safely and
5. Identifying and attending to advanced care planning needs (e.g., preferences around resuscitation, inclusion of hospice) PC 7, ICS 6, PPD5, PPD 7
   - Provides recommendations for medical care based on patient and/or family values and goals
   - Recognizes symptoms of impending death and appropriately cares for the dying patient and his or her family members
   - Recognizes importance of continued involvement of multidisciplinary team to support the patient and family in advanced care planning

6. Reflecting with interprofessional colleagues before, during, and after a patient’s death to allow for bereavement, self-care, and healing for all members of the team. ICS 3, P- Prof Cond, P-Prof
   - Appreciates the emotional impact on team members who are managing and supporting patients and families with serious illness
   - Practices self-reflection and effective self-care strategies
   - Participates and eventually serves as a team leader in debriefing sessions

Curricular Components Authors

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