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 complex 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
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.