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Authors

Cassara, M.
Doty, C.
Bond, M.
et al.

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29 Have Incoming PGY-1 Residents Achieved Level 1 Milestones?

Cassara M, Doty C, Bond M, Seamon J, Gonzalez A, Weizberg M / Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, Woodmere, NY; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY; University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD; GRMEP/Michigan State University, Grand Rapids, MI; Staten Island University Hospital, New York, NY

Background: As of July 1, 2013 residents training in Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited Emergency Medicine (EM) residencies must be evaluated on a continuum across 23 milestones (MS). The MS have subcompetencies (SC) that capture a resident’s progression along a continuum from novice (medical student - Level 1) to expert (seasoned EM attending “Level 5). It is assumed that incoming postgraduate year one (PGY-1) residents have achieved Level 1 SC of the MS. This has not been prospectively validated. Our purpose was to evaluate incoming PGY-1 residents to assess what percentage have achieved level 1 for the eight SC assessing patient care (PC 1-8).

Objectives: Primary objective: What percentage of incoming PGY-1 residents have achieved level 1 for care-based SC? Secondary objective: How accurate are incoming PGY-1 residents at self-assessing their SC level of MS?

Methods: Incoming PGY-1 residents at 5 EM residencies were scored by faculty and themselves to determine if they had achieved level 1 on SC PC 1-8, at the end of their 1st month of internship (Figure 1). Faculty assessments (FA) were done by 3 separate faculty members on 3 separate occasions. The majority response was taken as the final determination. Only PGY-1 residents who graduated medical school in the last year were included.



Figure 1. The nine questions that address the eight patient care sub-competencies that were evaluated.

Performance anchors were taken directly from the ACGME MS. Faculty and PGY-1 residents responded if they had achieved the SC or not. Means were compared using Fischer’s exact test.

Results: There were 35 PGY-1 residents at 5 residency programs. 3 subjects were excluded. Mean age 27.8; 57.1% male. The percentage of PGY-1 residents that achieved level-1 on FA ranged from 44.1%-100%, and on self-assessment (SA) from 17.5% to 100% (Table 1). SA was lower than FA for several SC. The majority of PGY-1 residents achieved level 1 on all SC except PC5a (classification of pharmaceutical agents).

Conclusions: The majority of PGY-1 residents achieved level 1 on 7 of 8 PC SC. SAs were lower than FAs for several SC.

Table 1.

	Subcompetency	Level 1 milestone	Faculty	Self	Difference	p-value
PC1	Emergency stabilization	Recognizes abnormal V/S	100%	100%	0%	1
PC2	Performance of focused History and physical exam	History and physical	91.4%	85%	6.4%	0.49
PC3	Diagnostic studies	Diagnostic studies	57.1%	42.5%	14.6%	0.25
PC4	Diagnosis	Potential diagnoses	62.9%	80%	17.1%	0.13
PC5a	Pharmacotherapy	Classifications of pharmacologic agents	44.1%	17.5%	26.6%	0.02
PC5b	Pharmacotherapy	Drug allergies	91.4%	72.5%	18.9%	0.04
PC6	Observation and reassessment	Re-evaluation	94.3%	75%	19.3%	0.03
PC7	Disposition	Describes resources	77.1%	48.7%	28.4%	0.02
PC8	Multi-tasking	Manages single patient	94.3%	80%	14.3%	0.09