THEME: Practice-Based Learning

Background and Intent: Practice-based learning and improvement is one of the defining characteristics of being a physician. It is the ability to investigate and evaluate the care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning. The intention of this Competency is to help a physician develop the habits of mind required to continuously pursue quality improvement, well past the completion of residency.

IV.B.1.d).(1) Residents must demonstrate competence in:

IV.B.1.d).(1).(a) identifying strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one’s knowledge and expertise; (Core)
IV.B.1.d).(1).(b) setting learning and improvement goals; (Core)
IV.B.1.d).(1).(c) identifying and performing appropriate learning activities; (Core)
IV.B.1.d).(1).(d) systematically analyzing practice using quality improvement methods, and implementing changes with the goal of practice improvement; (Core)
IV.B.1.d).(1).(e) incorporating feedback and formative evaluation feedback into daily practice; (Core)
IV.B.1.d).(1).(f) locating, appraising, and assimilating evidence from scientific studies related to their patients’ health problems;

The program must provide instruction and experience in pain management if applicable for the specialty, including recognition of the signs of addiction. (Core)

When there are no more medications or interventions that can achieve a patient’s goals or provide meaningful improvements in quality or length of life, a discussion about the patient’s goals, values, and choices surrounding the end of life is one of the most important conversations that can occur. Residents must learn to participate effectively and compassionately in these meaningful human interactions, for the sake of their patients and themselves. Programs may teach this skill through direct clinical experience, simulation, or other means of active learning.
THEME: Faculty Evaluation: Times They are Changing

Background and Intent: The program director is responsible for the education program and for whom delivers it. While the term “faculty” may be applied to physicians within a given institution for other reasons, it is applied to residency program faculty members only through approval by a program director. The development of the faculty improves the education, clinical, and research aspects of a program. Faculty members have a strong commitment to the resident and desire to provide optimal education and work opportunities. Faculty members must be provided feedback on their contribution to the mission of the program. All faculty members who interact with residents desire feedback on their education, clinical care, and research. If a faculty member does not interact with residents, feedback is not required. With regard to the diverse operating environments and configurations, the residency program director may need to work with others to determine the effectiveness of the program’s faculty performance with regard to their role in the educational program. All teaching faculty members should have their educational efforts evaluated by the residents in a confidential and anonymous manner. Other aspects for the feedback may include research or clinical productivity, review of patient outcomes, or peer review of scholarly activity. The process should reflect the local environment and identify the necessary information. The feedback from the various sources should be summarized and provided to the faculty on an annual basis by a member of the leadership team of the program.

V.B.1. The program must have a process to evaluate each faculty member’s performance as it relates to the educational program at least annually. (Core)

V.B.1.a) This evaluation must include a review of the faculty member’s clinical teaching abilities, engagement with the educational program, participation in faculty development related to their skills as an educator, clinical performance, professionalism, and scholarly activities. (Core)

V.B.1.b) This evaluation must include at least annual written, anonymous, and confidential evaluations by the residents. (Core)

V.B.2. Faculty members must receive feedback on their evaluations at least annually. (Core)

V.B.3. Results of the faculty educational evaluations should be incorporated into program-wide faculty development plans. (Core)
THEME: Quality & Safety

VI.A.1.a).(2) Education on Patient Safety: Programs must provide formal educational activities that promote patient safety-related goals, tools, and techniques. (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(3).(a) Residents, fellows, faculty members, and other clinical staff members must:
VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(i) know their responsibilities in reporting patient safety events at the clinical site; (Core)
VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(ii) know how to report patient safety events, including near misses, at the clinical site; and, (Core)
VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(iii) be provided with summary information of their institution’s patient safety reports. (Core)
VI.A.1.a).(3).(b) Residents must participate as team members in real and/or simulated inter-professional clinical patient safety activities, such as root cause analyses or other activities that include analysis, as well as formulation and implementation of actions. (Core)
VI.A.1.a).(4).a All residents must receive training in how to disclose adverse events to patients and families. (Core)

VI.A.1.b).(2).a Residents and faculty members must receive data on quality metrics and benchmarks related to their patient populations. (Core)
THEME: Program Aims and Evaluation/SWOT: Build Program Strategy

In addition, the educational program is expected to define its specific program aims consistent with the overall mission of its Sponsoring Institution, the needs of the community it serves and that its graduates will serve, and the distinctive capabilities of physicians it intends to graduate. While programs must demonstrate substantial compliance with the Common and specialty-specific Program Requirements, it is recognized that within this framework, programs may place different emphasis on research, leadership, public health, etc. It is expected that the program aims will reflect the nuanced program-specific goals for it and its graduates; for example, it is expected that a program aiming to prepare physician-scientists will have a different curriculum from one focusing on community health.

The curriculum must contain the following:

IV.A.1. a set of program aims consistent with the Sponsoring Institution’s mission, the needs of the community it serves, and the desired distinctive capabilities of its graduates; (Core)

IV.A.1.a) The program’s aims must be made available to program applicants, residents, and faculty members. (Core)

IV.A.2. competency-based goals and objectives for each assignment at each educational level experience designed to promote progress on a trajectory to autonomous practice. These must be distributed, reviewed, and available to residents and faculty members (Core)

V.C.1.b). (2) review of the program’s self-determined goals and progress toward meeting them; (Core)

V.C.1.b). (3) guiding ongoing program improvement, including development of new goals, based upon outcomes; and, (Core)

V.C.1.b). (4) review of the current operating environment to identify strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats as related to the program’s mission and aims. (Core)

V.C.1.d) The Program Evaluation Committee must evaluate the program’s mission and aims, strengths, areas for improvement, and threats. (Core)

V.C.1.e) The annual review, including the action plan, must:

V.C.1.e). (1) be distributed to and discussed with the members of the teaching faculty and the residents; and, (Core)

V.C.1.e). (2) be submitted to the DIO. (Core)
THEME: Faculty Development + Scholarly Activity:

What is My Job

Background and Intent: Faculty development is intended to describe structured programming developed for the purpose of enhancing transference of knowledge, skill, and behavior from the educator to the learner. Faculty development may occur in a variety of configurations (lecture, workshop, etc.) using internal and/or external resources. Programming is typically needs-based (individual or group) and may be specific to the institution or the program. **Faculty development programming is to be reported for the residency program faculty in the aggregate.**

II.B.2.g) The faculty must pursue faculty development designed to enhance their skills at least annually:

II.B.2.g).(1) as educators;  (Core)
II.B.2.g).(2) in quality improvement and patient safety; (Core)
II.B.2.g).(3) in fostering their own and their residents’ well-being; and, (Core)
II.B.2.g).(4) in patient care based on their practice-based learning and improvement efforts. (Core)

Faculty Scholarly Activity

IV.D.2.a) Among their scholarly activity, programs must demonstrate accomplishments in at least three of the following domains: (Core)

- Research in basic science, education, translational science, patient care, or population health
- Peer-reviewed grants
- Quality improvement and/or patient safety initiatives
- Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, review articles, chapters in medical textbooks, or case reports
- Creation of curricula, evaluation tools, didactic educational activities, or electronic educational materials
- Contribution to professional committees, educational organizations, or editorial boards

**The program must demonstrate dissemination of scholarly activity within and external to the program by the following methods**
THEME: Program Director Roles & Responsibility: What I am Not Doing

Background and Intent: The mission of institutions participating in graduate medical education is to improve the health of the public. Each community has health needs that vary based upon location and demographics. Programs must understand the social determinants of health of the populations they serve and incorporate them in the design and implementation of the program curriculum, with the ultimate goal of addressing these needs and health disparities.

II.A.4.a).(3) The Program Director must administer and maintain a learning environment conducive to educating the residents in each of the ACGME Competency domains; (Core)

II.A.4.a).(4) **develop and oversee a process to evaluate** candidates prior to approval as program faculty members for participation in the residency program education and at least annually thereafter, as outlined in V.B.; (Core)

II.A.4.a).(5) have the authority to approve program faculty members for participation in the residency program education at all sites; approve the selection of program faculty as appropriate; (Core)

II.A.4.a).(6) have the authority to remove program faculty members from participation in the residency program education at all sites; approve the continued participation of program faculty based on evaluation; (Core)

II.A.4.a).(7) have the authority to remove residents from supervising interactions and/or learning environments that do not meet the standards of the program; (Core)

II.A.4.a).(9) provide applicants who are offered an interview with information related to the applicant’s eligibility for the relevant specialty board examination(s); (Core)
THEME: Wellbeing & the Learning Environment

I.D.2. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must ensure healthy and safe learning and working environments that promote resident well-being and provide for: (Core)

a) access to food while on duty; (Core)
b) safe, quiet, clean, and private sleep/rest facilities available and accessible for residents with proximity appropriate for safe patient care; (Core)  
c) clean and private facilities for lactation that have refrigeration capabilities, with proximity appropriate for safe patient care; (Core)  
d) security and safety measures appropriate to the participating site; and, (Core)
e) accommodation for residents with disabilities consistent with the Sponsoring Institution’s policy. (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(f) Residents must possess the ability to recognize and develop a plan for one’s own personal and professional well-being; (Core)

VI.B.4.c).(2) recognition of impairment, including from illness, fatigue, and substance use, in themselves, their peers, and other members of the health care team. (Outcome)

VI.C.1.e) attention to resident and faculty member burnout, depression, and substance abuse. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must educate faculty members and residents in identification of the symptoms of burnout, depression, and substance abuse, including means to assist those who experience these conditions. Residents and faculty members must also be educated to recognize those symptoms in themselves and how to seek appropriate care. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must: (Core)

VI.C.1.e).(1) encourage residents and faculty members to alert the program director or other designated personnel or programs when they are concerned that another resident, fellow, or faculty member may be displaying signs of burnout, depression, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, or potential for violence;

VI.C.1.e).(2) provide access to appropriate tools for self-screening; and, (Core)

VI.D. Fatigue Mitigation: Programs must:

VI.D.1.a) educate all faculty members and residents to recognize the signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation; (Core)

VI.D.1.b) educate all faculty members and residents in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes;
THEME: Diversity and Inclusion

I.C. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must engage in practices that focus on mission-driven, ongoing, systematic recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce of residents, fellows (if present), faculty members, senior administrative staff members, and other relevant members of its academic community. (Core)

- **Policies and procedures must be in place related to minorities underrepresented in medicine and medical leadership; the annual program evaluation must include an assessment of the program’s efforts to recruit and retain a diverse workforce (also see V.C.1.c).(5).(c).**
- **The PEC must assess the variety of fellows and residents the organization recruits and retains to ensure a diverse workforce.**