

Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) Key Observable Behaviours

The following Key Observable Behaviours appear on each corresponding EPA assessment form. The Key Observable Behaviours are meant to guide the assessor in the completion of the overall rating scale and narrative comments.

EPA 1 - Obtain a history and perform a physical examination adapted to the patient's clinical situation

Key Observable Behaviours

Conduct a patient-centred interview, gathering all relevant biomedical and psychosocial information

Communicate using a patient-centred approach that facilitates patient trust and autonomy and is characterized by respect and compassion

Use clear and concise language; avoid or adequately explain medical jargon

Seek and synthesize relevant information from other sources, including the patient's family, with the patient's consent

Optimize the physical environment for patient comfort, dignity, privacy, engagement, and safety

Performs and demonstrates physical exam skills tailored to the clinical case

EPA 2 - Formulate and justify a prioritized differential diagnosis

Key Observable Behaviours

Lists diagnostic possibilities by integrating elements from the history, physical examination, and investigations

Identifies the major diagnostic possibilities for common clinical presentations

Justifies and prioritizes a most likely diagnosis based on information from the clinical assessment

Incorporates major determinants of health for the patient when generating and prioritizing the differential

EPA 3 - Formulate an initial plan of investigation based on the diagnostic hypotheses

Key Observable Behaviours

Provides the rationale for ordering an investigation based on either current evidence, guidelines, cost, acceptability or utility

Identifies levels of uncertainty at each step of the diagnostic process; student does not over or under investigate

Identifies who will be responsible for the follow-up of test results

In case of social implications of positive results, discusses the selection of the tests with patients/family/caregiver/advocate when ordering them (e.g. HIV, pregnancy in an adolescent)

EPA 4 - Interpret and communicate results of common diagnostic and screening tests

Key Observable Behaviours

Distinguishes between results that are common normal variations, abnormal or urgent

Communicates significant results in a timely and appropriate manner to other team members

Summarizes and interprets the meaning of test results and seeks help with interpretation (if needed)

Communicates results in a clear manner to patients (family/caregiver/advocate)

Formulates an appropriate preliminary opinion about the clinical implication of test results

EPA 5 - Formulate, communicate and implement management plans

Key Observable Behaviours

Proposes initial management plans that are evidence informed including pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic components

Proposes initial management plans that are holistic and considers the patient context

Develops a prioritized management plan that is reviewed with senior team members and includes input from interprofessional colleagues

Communicates approved management plans with patients and other healthcare team members; achieves mutual agreement and understanding

Documents approved management plans in written/electronic orders, prescriptions and consultations/referrals; ensures the electronic medical record is up-to-date

Follows principles of error reduction including discussion of indications/contraindications of treatment plans, possible adverse effects, proper dosage and drug interactions

EPA 6 - Present oral and written reports that document a clinical encounter

Key Observable Behaviours

Presents a concise and relevant summary of a patient encounter

Presents a concise and relevant summary to the patient, and where appropriate, the patient's family (caregiver/advocate)

Documents findings in a clear, focused and accurate manner

EPA 7 - Provide and receive the handover in transitions of care

Key Observable Behaviours

When providing handover: communicates required information clearly and succinctly

When providing handover: minimizes distractions

When providing handover: uses a structured handover tool

When providing handover: completes relevant documentation

When providing handover: respects patient confidentiality

When receiving handover: Asks clarifying questions

When receiving handover: repeats information provided to ensure closed-loop communication

When receiving handover: communicates that the transition of responsibility has occurred

When receiving handover: respects patient confidentiality

EPA 8 - Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care, provide initial management and seek help

Key Observable Behaviours

Utilizes early warning signs, or rapid response team/medical emergency team criteria, to recognize patients at risk of deterioration and mobilizes appropriate resources urgently

Asks for help when uncertain or requiring assistance; involves team members needed for immediate response, continued decision making, and necessary follow-up

Initiates and participates in a code response; performs basic life support when required including CPR during cardiac arrest

Rapidly assesses and initiates management to stabilize the patient

Clarifies patient's goals of care upon recognition of deterioration

Updates family members/caregiver/advocate to explain patient's status and escalation-of-care plans

EPA 9 - Communicate in difficult situations

Key Observable Behaviours

Plans the encounter by ensuring a private setting; verifying who should be present; ensures safety and comfort in positioning

Introduces themselves, role in patient care and purpose of the conversation

Speaks in language free of jargon, uses a translator when needed

Listens actively and verifies for understanding and/or concerns

Develops a mutually agreed upon plan with next steps articulated

Works with and includes other health care team members, as applicable

Assesses safety of the situation and seeks help as needed

EPA 10 - Contribute to a culture of safety and improvement

Key Observable Behaviours

Enters information in an error reporting system

Recognizes one's own errors to the supervisor/team, reflect on one's contribution, and develops their own learning plan and or quality improvement plan

Identifies situations that might place a patient at risk

Participates in a quality improvement exercise/project

Participates in quality of care rounds or informal discussions with the team

Engages in daily safety habits (e.g. universal precautions, hand washing, time-outs)

EPA 11 - Perform general procedures of a physician

Key Observable Behaviours

Understands the indications/contraindications, risks and the benefits of the procedure

Anticipates and recognizes complications associated with the procedure and seeks help appropriately

Explains the procedure to the patient (family/caregiver/advocate) while avoiding medical jargon and ensuring understanding of associated risks; answers questions clearly

Performs the procedure with proper technique and first attempts at troubleshooting; seeks assistance from supervisor appropriately

Documents the procedure with all relevant details

EPA 12 - Educate patients on disease management, health promotion and preventive medicine

Key Observable Behaviours

Communicates with language that is free of jargon and is understood by the patient

Enquires about lifestyle habits; assesses readiness to change; encourages questions from the patient

Provides examples of concrete changes that could be implemented to encourage healthier habits; verifies for patient understanding

Identifies potentially risky behaviours or living conditions that may jeopardize the safety of the patient

Documents the discussion and next steps