



November 2022

Welcome to the first edition of EPAs: Coming Soon, the newsletter which keeps you up to date on the introduction of EPAs to Temerty Faculty of Medicine undergraduate medical education.

What is an EPA?

EPA is an acronym for Entrustable Professional Activities. The Association of Faculties of Medicine in Canada (AFMC) has introduced 12 EPAs for undergraduate students. Following a pause on the EPA pilot in March 2022, the MD Program is ready to implement an EPA pilot for 2T4 clerkship students from March to August 2023 with a plan for full implementation planned for the 2T5 clerkship students from September 2023.

EPAs will function primarily as a formative, low stakes, clinical feedback tool and, is one of a number of such tools that enable the MD Program to track the developmental progress of students over the course of clerkship and provide appropriate support as needed.

Is there any difference between EPAs for residents and medical students?

If you are a faculty member, you may have completed EPA forms on Elentra for your residents. Elentra will still be the platform utilized for EPA completion in the MD Program. The EPA tool for the MD Program does look slightly different based on the recommendations of a working group. The EPA scale is truncated and there

are no milestone ratings for the MD Program. During this edition and future editions of this newsletter we will be highlighting the differences.

Please also refer to the [Faculty Development EPA webpage](#) for further information and resources.

Key Observable Behaviours

Assessors will not be required to rate milestones for each EPA like they do for residents. Instead, the assessor will be presented with “Key Observable Behaviours” which they should be referencing to guide their assessment of the medical student when completing the overall rating and providing narrative comments.

Example 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

What's coming up in the next edition?

Details about the EPA overall rating scale which will be used for medical students, showcasing the descriptors for each point of the rating scale.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at md.oae@utoronto.ca