



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures

# Update from the AAMC Core EPA Pilot:

**EPA Toolkits for curricular interventions,  
student engagement, faculty  
development, and assessment  
modalities.**

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Learn

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Serve

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Lead



Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# Session Structure

- Large group presentation (25 min)
  - Core EPA Concepts and Pilot Overview
  - Supervision Level Assessment
  - One-page EPA schematics
  - Clerkship Practical Implementation
- Q & A (10 min)
- Small group work (20 min)
  - Using the provided toolkit, how might you incorporate the EPA framework for
    - curricular interventions
    - student engagement
    - faculty development
    - student assessment
- Report out from small groups (20 min)
- Wrap up and next steps (15 min)

# Ensuring Learners are Prepared to Transition to Graduate Medical Education



Premedical



Medical School



Residency and  
Fellowships



Practice



Core Entrustable Professional  
Activities for Entering Residency



# Competency-based Education:

“What are the abilities needed of graduates?”



# Van Melle's Core Components of CBME

## CBME Critical Activities



**FRAMEWORK**

Competencies required for practice are clearly articulated

**PROGRESSION**

Competencies and their developmental markers are sequenced progressively

**TAILORED EXPERIENCES**

Authentic, work-based learning environments organized to facilitate the developmental acquisition of competencies

**COMPETENCY-FOCUSED INSTRUCTION**

Teachers who act as coaches in a way that promotes the developmental acquisition of competencies

**PROGRAMMATIC ASSESSMENT**

Assessment practices support & document the developmental acquisition of competencies

# Entrustable Professional Activities = EPAs

...a task of professional practice that can be entrusted to a sufficiently competent learner...

- Observable
- Pragmatic
- Authentic
- Individual
- Level of supervision

# Competencies vs EPAs

Competencies	EPAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An individual professional's abilities</li><li>• Knowledge, skills, attitudes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A discipline's essential professional work tasks</li><li>• Abilities at a stage of development</li></ul>
E.g. ACGME, CanMEDS, UK GMP, etc.	E.g. AAMC: Conduct a hx & px (1), Present a case orally (6)
A spectrum	A progression

# Entrustment

A decision to delegate a task with a defined level of supervision

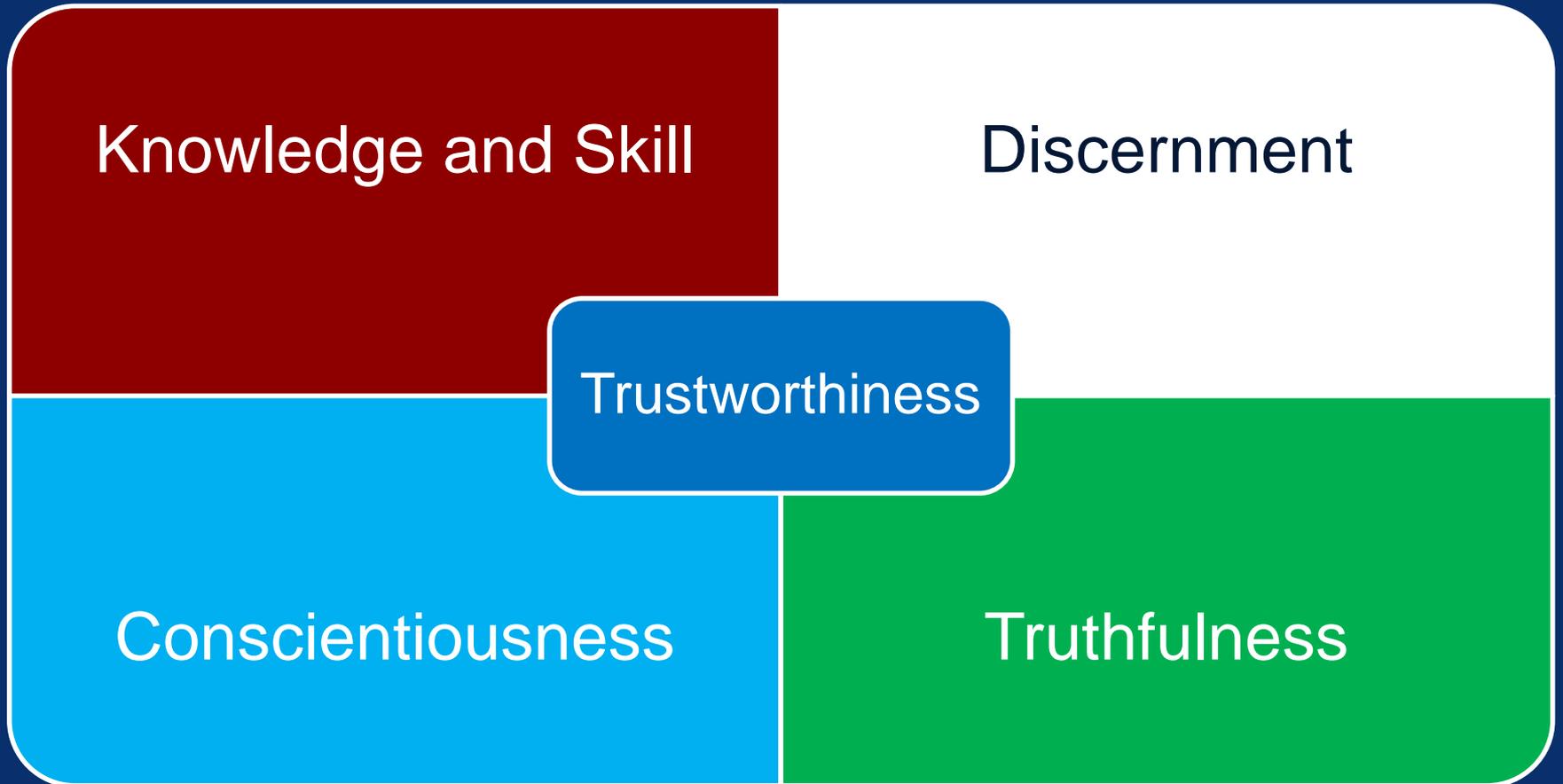
- Ad-hoc entrustment = daily
- Summative entrustment = formal

# Entrustment

Categories that MAY Impact Ad Hoc  
Entrustment Decisions

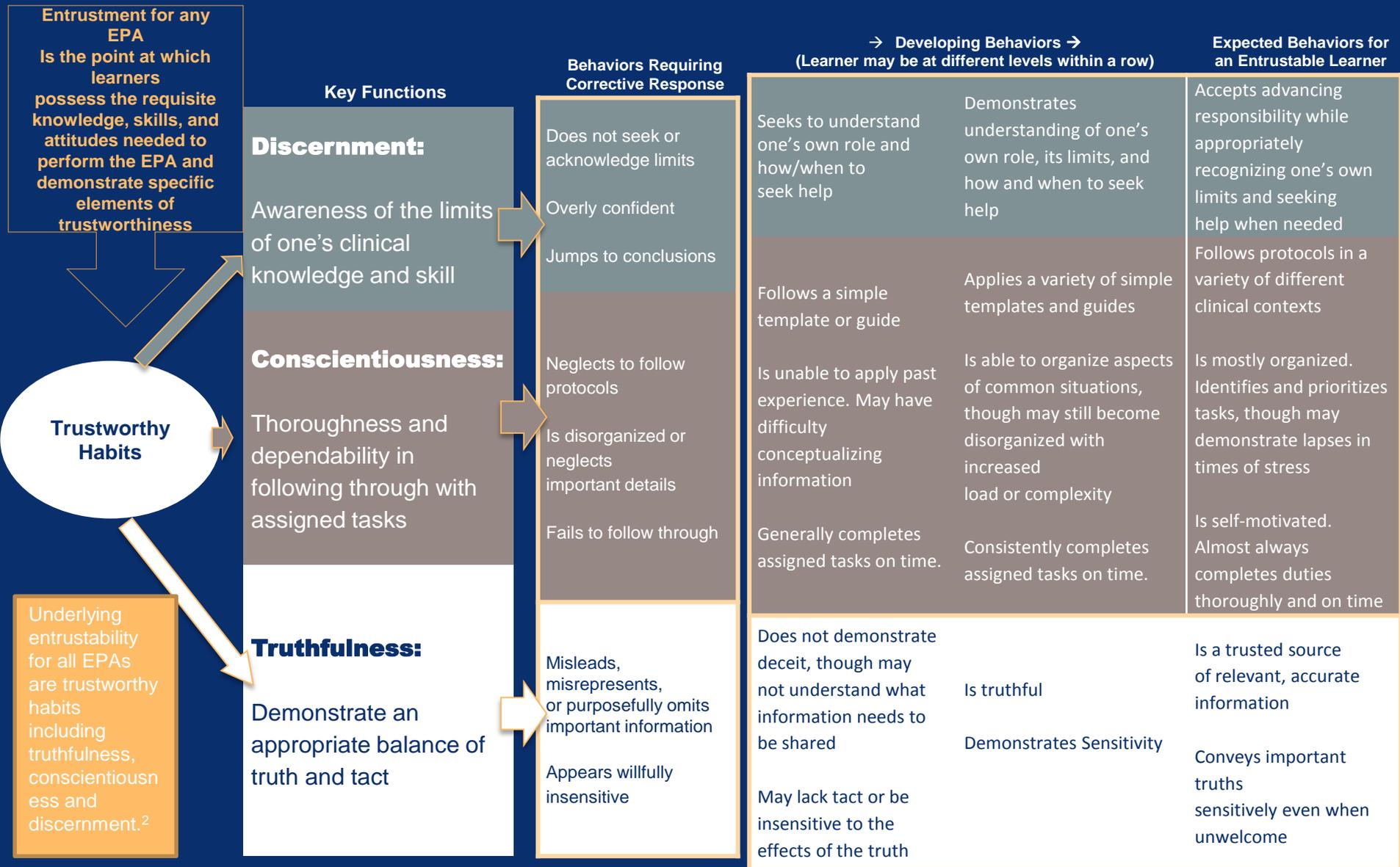
- 1) The TRAINEE
- 2) The SUPERVISOR
- 3) The CONTEXT/CIRCUMSTANCE
- 4) The TASK or ACTIVITY
- 5) The RELATIONSHIP between Trainee-Supervisor

# Trustworthiness of the Learner



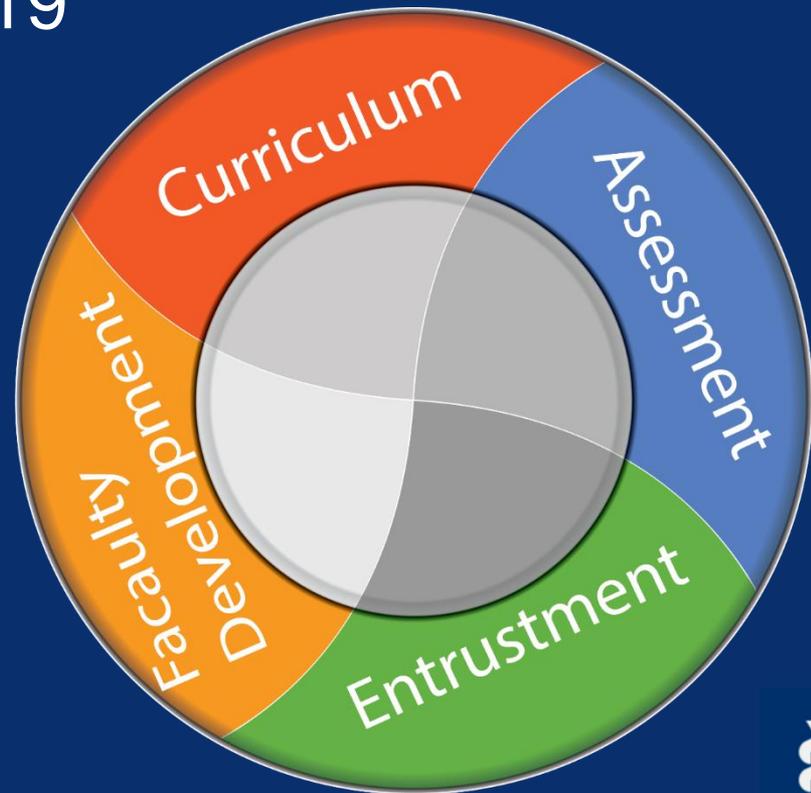
Kennedy et al. (2008) *Acad Med*

# Trustworthiness: Foundational to performance of all EPAs<sup>1</sup>



# Core EPA Implementation Pilot

- Pilot group first assembled in Washington, DC in October 2014
- Implemented initial student activities in 2015 for those graduating in 2019
- Targeting summative entrustment decisions for that same cohort graduating in 2019



# Core EPA Pilot Guiding Principles

- 1) Systems Approach
- 2) Measure Attributes of Trustworthiness
- 3) Longitudinal View of Performance
- 4) Multimodal Performance Evidence
- 5) Incorporate Ad Hoc Entrustment Decisions
- 6) Entrustment Committee Process
- 7) Formative Feedback
- 8) Engaged Learners
- 9) Standardized Expectations

# Supervisory Scale

*Based on this student's performance, the level of supervision this student currently requires is:*

- “Watch me do this”
- “Let's do this together”
- “I'll watch you”
- “You go ahead, and I'll double-check all of your findings”
- “You go ahead, and I'll double-check key findings.”

# Ad Hoc Trust > Independence

## Coactivity Scale

How Much Supervision Did the Learner Require for this Team Activity?

- "I did it"
- "I talked them through it"
- "I directed them from time to time"
- "I was available just in case"

<https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/coreepas/publicationsandpresentations/>

# Summative Entrustment Decisions

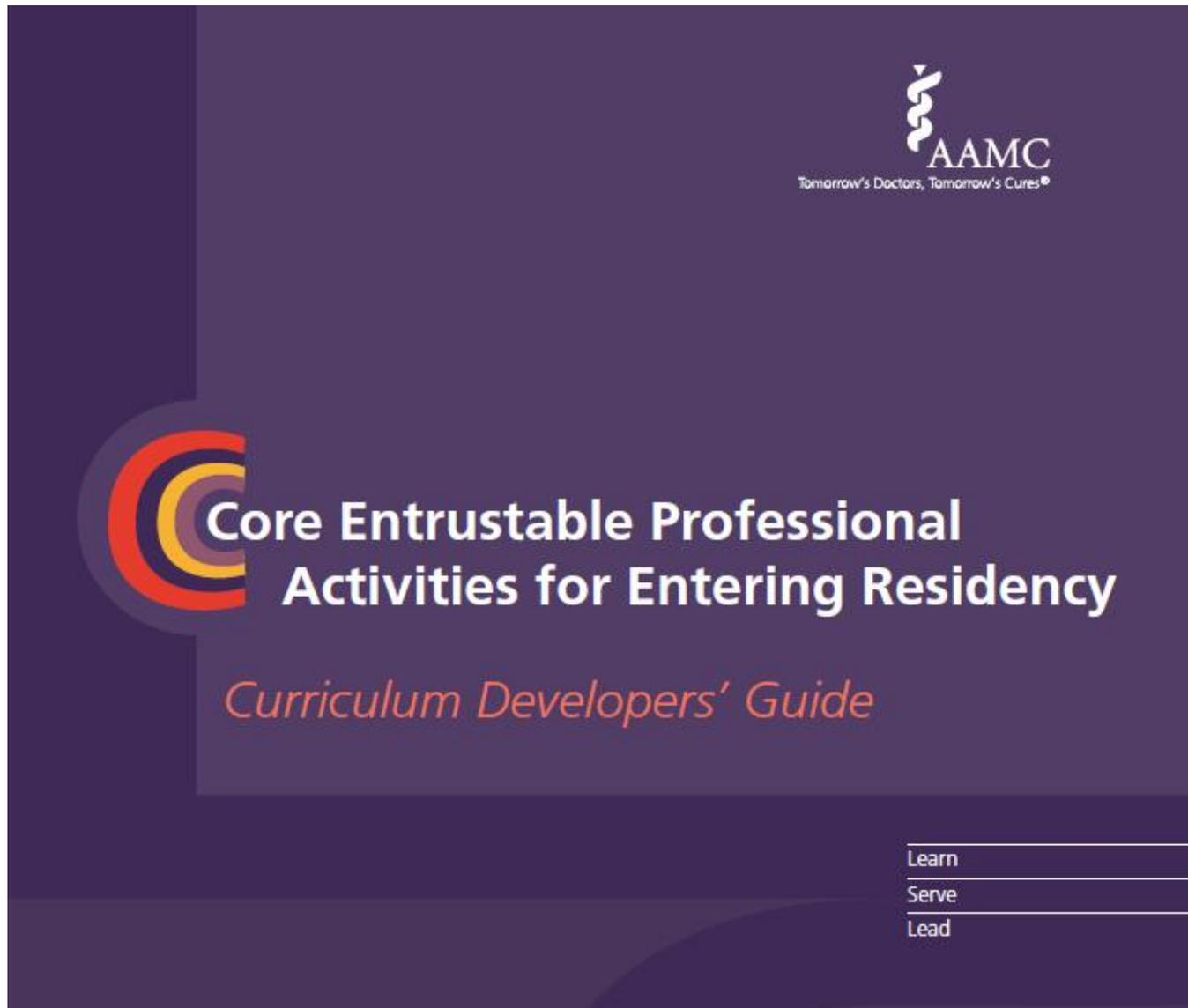
School-Specific Attributes that Facilitated Implementation of Guiding Principles:

- 1) Structures for longitudinal relationships
- 2) Portfolios that allow tracking of competency data
- 3) Analytic systems that allow the aggregation of competency assessment data into dashboards
- 4) Learner handovers across educational settings within UME

# Pilot best practices and next steps

- Ad hoc workplace-based assessment (WBA) via mobile technology
- E-repository
- Dashboards
- Narrative data
- Attention to entrustment committee structures and processes

# We started with...

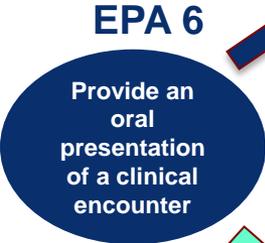


**And now...**



# EPA 6: Provide an Oral Presentation of a Clinical Encounter

An EPA: A unit of observable, measurable professional practice requiring integration of competencies



Underlying entrustability for all EPAs are trustworthy habits, including truthfulness, conscientiousness, and discernment.

This schematic depicts development of proficiency in the Core EPAs. It is not intended for use as an assessment instrument. Entrustment decisions should be made after EPAs have been observed in multiple settings with varying context, acuity, and complexity and with varying patient characteristics.

Key Functions with Related Competencies	Behaviors Corrective Requiring Response	→ Developing Behaviors → (Learner may be at different levels within a row.)		Expected Behaviors for an Entrustable Learner
<p><b>Present personally gathered and verified information, acknowledging areas of uncertainty</b></p> <p>PC2 PBL1 PPD4 P1</p>	<p>Fabricates information when unable to respond to questions</p> <p>Reacts defensively when queried</p>	<p>Gathers evidence incompletely or exhaustively</p> <p>Fails to verify information</p> <p>Does not obtain sensitive information</p>	<p>Acknowledges gaps in knowledge, adjusts to feedback, and then obtains additional information</p>	<p>Presents personally verified and accurate information, even when sensitive</p> <p>Acknowledges gaps in knowledge, reflects on areas of uncertainty, and seeks additional information to clarify or refine presentation</p>
<p><b>Provide an accurate, concise, well-organized oral presentation</b></p> <p>ICS2 PC6</p>	<p>Presents in a disorganized and incoherent fashion</p>	<p>Delivers a presentation that is not concise or that wanders</p> <p>Presents a story that is imprecise because of omitted or extraneous information</p>	<p>Delivers a presentation organized around the chief concern</p> <p>When asked, can identify pertinent positives and negatives that support hypothesis</p> <p>Supports management plans with limited information</p>	<p>Filters, synthesizes, and prioritizes information into a concise and well-organized presentation</p> <p>Integrates pertinent positives and negatives to support hypothesis</p> <p>Provides sound arguments to support the plan</p>
<p><b>Adjust the oral presentation to meet the needs of the receiver</b></p> <p>ICS1 ICS2 PBL1 PPD7</p>	<p>Presents information in a manner that frightens family</p>	<p>Follows a template</p> <p>Uses acronyms and medical jargon</p> <p>Projects too much or too little confidence</p>	<p>When prompted, can adjust presentation in length and complexity to match situation and receiver of information</p>	<p>Tailors length and complexity of presentation to situation and receiver of information</p> <p>Conveys appropriate self-assurance to put patient and family at ease</p>
<p><b>Demonstrate respect for patient's privacy and autonomy</b></p> <p>P3 P1 PPD4</p>	<p>Disregards patient's privacy and autonomy</p>	<p>Lacks situational awareness when presenting sensitive patient information</p> <p>Does not engage patients and families in discussions of care</p>	<p>Incorporates patient's preferences and privacy needs</p>	<p>Respects patients' privacy and confidentiality by demonstrating situational awareness when discussing patients</p> <p>Engages in shared decision making by actively soliciting patient's preferences</p>

# FM Clerkship Implementation at FIU

- Pilot with EPA 1, 6, 9, 11
- Adhoc brief assessments using iPads
- Student training: During clerkship orientation, midpoint feedback meetings
- Faculty training: Via newsletter, emails, in person visits using EPA one-pager overview
- Supervisory scale also included in our clerkship clinical assessment

# FM Clerkship Implementation at FIU

Q5 Presents personally gathered and verified information acknowledging areas of uncertainty.



Fails to verify info;

Presents verified, accurate info;



Does not obtain sensitive info;

Acknowledges gaps in knowledge or ambiguity, seeks help;



Does not follow up on ambiguous info;

Acknowledge gaps in knowledge or info;

shows confidence that put others at ease

Confabulates info when unable to respond to questions; Reacts defensively when queried

Lacks confidence; or has more confidence than is merited by abilities

Accepts help and adjusts to feedback

Unable to assess



Q6 Adjusts the presentation to meet the needs of the receiver.



Adjusts presentation for the receiver and context (new admission vs daily progress report,



Follows a template for all presentations, does not adjust presentation as needed;

Adjusts presentation for simple cases only; May have difficulty adjusting to certain contexts

follow up, emergent patient. consultation, etc.)

Unable to assess



Q7 Respect for patient privacy and confidentiality.



Lacks situational awareness when discussing patients and sensitive info (elevators, public spaces)

Respects patient privacy, may have occasional lapses

Respects patient confidentiality, exhibits situational awareness when discussing patients

Unable to assess

Disregards patient privacy and confidentiality



Q4 Presents and accurate, well organized presentation.



Well organized;



Presentation is not concise; story is imprecise;

Organized;

Presents pertinent positives and negatives for history and exam;



Disorganized;

Information is omitted;

May omit pertinent positives or negatives;

Presents information that was not obtained on history and/or exam

Extra information included

Supports plan with limited information

Provides sound assessments to support plan

Unable to assess



During this oral presentation, the student:

Required complete guidance; was unprepared

Was able to perform some tasks but required repeated direction ("I had to talk them through")

Demonstrated some independence; only requiring intermittent prompting ("I had to direct them from time to time")

Functioned independently, Only needed assistance with nuances or complex situations

Unable to assess





# EPA 4: Enter and Discuss Orders and Prescriptions

An EPA: A unit of observable, measurable professional practice requiring integration of competencies

## EPA 4

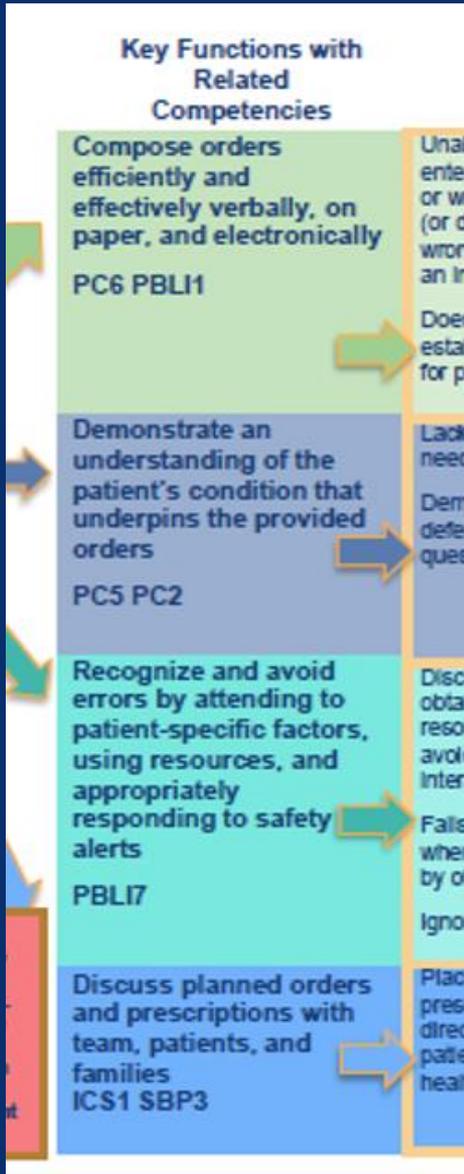
Enter and discuss orders and prescriptions

Key Functions with Related Competencies	Behaviors Requiring Corrective Response	→ Developing Behaviors → (Learner may be at different levels within a row.)	Expected Behaviors for an Entrustable Learner
<b>Compose orders efficiently and effectively verbally, on paper, and electronically</b> PC6 PBL11	Unable to compose or enter electronic orders or write prescriptions (or does so for the wrong patient or using an incorrect order set)  Does not follow established protocols for placing orders	Does not recognize when to tailor or deviate from the standard order set  Orders tests excessively (uses shotgun approach)  May be overconfident, does not seek review of orders  Recognizes when to tailor or deviate from the standard order set  Completes simple orders  Demonstrates working knowledge of how orders are processed in the workplace  Asks questions, accepts feedback	Routinely recognizes when to tailor or deviate from the standard order set  Able to complete complex orders requiring changes in dose or frequency over time (e.g., a taper)  Undertakes a reasoned approach to placing orders (e.g., waits for contingent results before ordering more tests)  Recognizes limitations and seeks help
<b>Demonstrate an understanding of the patient's condition that underpins the provided orders</b> PC5 PC2	Lacks basic knowledge needed to guide orders  Demonstrates defensiveness when questioned	Has difficulty filtering and synthesizing information to prioritize diagnostics and therapies  Unable to articulate the rationale behind orders  Articulates rationale behind orders  May not take into account subtle signs or exam findings guiding orders	Recognizes patterns, takes into account the patient's condition when ordering diagnostics and/or therapeutics  Explains how test results influence clinical decision making
<b>Recognize and avoid errors by attending to patient-specific factors, using resources, and appropriately responding to safety alerts</b> PBL17	Discounts information obtained from resources designed to avoid drug-drug interactions  Fails to adjust doses when advised to do so by others  Ignores alerts	Underuses information that could help avoid errors  Relies excessively on technology to highlight drug-drug interactions and/or risks (e.g., smartphone or EHR suggests an interaction, but learner cannot explain relevance)  May inconsistently apply safe prescription-writing habits such as double-check of patient's weight, age, renal function, comorbidities, dose and/or interval, and pharmacogenetics when applicable	Routinely practices safe habits when writing or entering prescriptions or orders  Responds to EHR's safety alerts and understands rationale for them  Uses electronic resources to fill in gaps in knowledge to inform safe order writing (e.g., drug-drug interactions, treatment guidelines)
<b>Discuss planned orders and prescriptions with team, patients, and families</b> ICS1 SBP3	Places orders and/or prescriptions that directly conflict with patient's and family's health or cultural beliefs	Places orders without communicating with others; uses unidirectional style ("Here is what we are doing...")  Does not consider cost of orders or patient's preferences  Modifies plan based on patient's preferences  May describe cost-containment efforts as externally mandated and interfering with the doctor-patient relationship	Enters orders that reflect bidirectional communication with patients, families, and team  Considers the costs of orders and the patient's ability and willingness to proceed with the plan

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# FM Clerkship Implementation at OHSU



**EHR ICS5 OHSU Family Medicine Clinical Experience Competency Tool**  
Family Medicine Core Courses

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**OHSU SOM Competency: Interpersonal and Communications Skills #5**  
Effectively access, review, and contribute to the electronic health record (EHR) for patient care and other clinical activities

Pre-Entrustable	Entrustable
May neglect to review parts of the EHR or verify its accuracy with external sources. May neglect to inform the team of EHR errors or omissions. Documentation in early development, and may be incomplete, or does not routinely include all important data and/or communicate clinical reasoning. Chooses templates without adequate alteration, possibly including no longer accurate or incorrect information. Documentation may take an excessive amount of time to be finalized and submitted. May be able to verbalize desired orders, but is not reliably able to pend accurate orders in the EHR.	Consistently reviews accuracy of the information as appropriate. Documentation is accurate and comprehensive and tailored to patient needs. Information is consistently able to pend accurate and appropriate orders. Clinical reasoning is well documented. Documentation is complete in a professional fashion.

**Measure: Diabetes Workshop Simulated Electronic Health Record Chart Work and Notes**

Element of EHR clinical activity	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent
1. Completed in timely fashion (must pass)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Reviewed past labs and included them in medical decisions (2 points*)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Reviewed history and accurately updated in chart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Reviewed allergies and documented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Documented vitals in note	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Lab orders accurately ordered/pended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Immunizations accurately ordered/pended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Medications for treatment accurately ordered/pended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Problem list of EHR accurately updated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Clinical reasoning well documented (must pass)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Documentation was accurate, comprehensive, and specific to patient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Templates tailored: include only accurate and pertinent information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Follow up plan documented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Clear lay language patient instructions written (2 Points*)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scoring: Satisfactory= 1 point, Some Evidence= ½ Point. To pass: Satisfactory completion of 10 items (including 6 and 10) and 14 items (including 14).

Notes:

Review Past Labs

Review/Update History

Review Allergies

Labs Ordered

Meds Ordered

Clinical Reasoning

Patient Explanation



# FM Clerkship Implementation at OHSU

- SOM curriculum transformation to competency based model
- Shortened core from 5-4 weeks
- Clerkships asked to define their contribution to the curriculum in outcomes language
- *Upon completion of the FM clerkship, all students will possess a thorough, deep and personal understanding of the specialty of Family Medicine.*
  - *Competencies and Educational Activities (EAs)*
  - *Current and new educational sessions to “double dip”*
  - *Common CBE framework lead to easy integration with institutional and national CBE efforts*

## Break into groups.....

- Take one minute per person to introduce yourself and summarize where you and your organization are in regards to the EPAs
- Using the provided toolkit, how might you incorporate the EPA framework for curricular interventions, student engagement, faculty development, and student assessment
- View Toolkits:  
<https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/coreepas/publicationsandpresentations/>

# Report out



# Wrap-up and Q and A





## AAMC Core EPA Resources

<https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/coreepas/publicationsandpresentations/>

EPA Toolkits including one-page schematics  
Supervisory Scale Task Force Report  
Manuscripts

To subscribe to the AAMC Core EPA listserve,  
send a blank email to

[subscribe-coreepas@lists.aamc.org](mailto:subscribe-coreepas@lists.aamc.org)

# Acknowledgment: Pilot Schools

- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
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- New York University School of Medicine
- Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine
- University of Illinois College of Medicine
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- Yale School of Medicine