The Family Medicine Milestone Project

A Joint Initiative of

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

and

The American Board of Family Medicine





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The Family Medicine Milestone Project

The Milestones are designed only for use in evaluation of resident physicians in the context of their participation in ACGME accredited residency or fellowship programs. The Milestones provide a framework for the assessment of the development of the resident physician in key dimensions of the elements of physician competency in a specialty or subspecialty. They neither represent the entirety of the dimensions of the six domains of physician competency, nor are they designed to be relevant in any other context.

Family Medicine Milestones

Working Group

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FAMILY MEDICINE MILESTONES PROLOGUE

Family medicine contributes to the care of patients at all levels, throughout all stages of life, and is more than a primary care specialty. It is a discipline characterized by its breadth and integrative functions.

Family physicians are personal physicians who focus on each individual in his or her given situation, integrating mental and physical health, within each individual's own social context. These physicians possess a unique skill-set to take primary responsibility for and manage any problems with which patients present for attention and care. They provide a reliable point of first contact with the health care system for patients, regardless of the type or nature of their problems, providing a comprehensive set of services that resolve most of the problems the majority of people have most of the time. They remain with their patients across time and health care settings, and work with dynamic teams to integrate proper care of individuals. Family physicians interface with all medical specialties and public health. When necessary, they rely on community resources, helping individuals, families, and communities meet their health-related goals. The special focuses of family physicians are the individual in the context of his or her family and community, and all the complexities this entails. It is essential for family physicians to have in-depth knowledge of a patient as an individual and broad knowledge of medical science to act in the best interest of that patient. The effectiveness of family physicians depends on their abilities to earn the trust of their patients and sustain relationships over time. Because of the breadth of involvement of family medicine in the health care system, family physicians are in a special position to critique, positively influence, and lead the health care delivery system.

Family medicine residency programs aim to graduate physicians with the necessary attitudes, knowledge, and skills to serve any and all of the nation's communities. The Family Medicine Milestones document is a living document that provides guidance for how family physicians are developed from the start of residency as undifferentiated medical students, to becoming competent family physicians ready to enter independent practice.

The milestones are developmentally-based family medicine-specific attributes that family medicine residents can be expected to demonstrate as they progress through their programs. Organized around the six ACGME core competencies, each group of related milestones includes an introductory statement that describes the specific emphasis of family medicine within that competency.

Milestone Reporting

This document presents milestones designed for programs to use in semi-annual review of resident performance and reporting to the ACGME. Milestones are knowledge, skills, attitudes, and other attributes for each of the ACGME competencies, organized in a developmental framework from less to more advanced. They are descriptors and targets for resident performance as a resident moves from entry into residency through graduation. In the initial years of implementation, the Review Committee will examine milestone performance data for each program's residents as one element in the Next Accreditation System (NAS) to determine whether residents overall are progressing.

For each reporting period, review and reporting will involve selecting the level of milestones that best describes each resident's current performance level in relation to milestones. Milestones are arranged into levels. Selection of a level implies that the resident substantially demonstrates the milestones in that level, as well as those in lower levels (see Reporting Form diagram below). A general interpretation of Milestone levels for family medicine is below:

- Level 1: The resident demonstrates milestones expected of a resident who has had some education in family medicine.
- Level 2: The resident is advancing and demonstrating additional milestones.
- Level 3: The resident continues to advance and demonstrate additional milestones; the resident consistently demonstrates the majority of milestones targeted for residency.
- Level 4: The resident has advanced so that he or she now substantially demonstrates the milestones targeted for residency. This level is designed as the graduation target.
- **Level 5:** The resident has advanced beyond performance targets set for residency and is demonstrating "aspirational" goals which might describe the performance of someone who has been in practice for several years. It is expected that only a few exceptional residents will reach this level.

Additional Notes

"Level 4" is designed as the graduation *target* but does *not* represent a graduation *requirement*. Making decisions about readiness for graduation is the purview of the residency program director (see the following NAS FAQ for educational milestones on the ACGME's NAS microsite for further discussion of this issue: "Can a resident graduate if he or she does not reach every milestone?"). Study of milestone performance data will be required before the ACGME and its partners will be able to determine whether graduating resident milestones and milestones in lower levels are in the appropriate level within the developmental framework, as well as whether milestone data are of sufficient quality to be used for high stakes decisions.

Some milestone descriptions include statements about performing independently. These activities must follow the ACGME supervision guidelines. For example, a resident who performs a procedure or takes independent call must, at a minimum, be supervised through oversight.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Next Accreditation System (NAS) and milestones are available on the ACGME's NAS microsite: http://www.acgme-nas.org/assets/pdf/NASFAQs.pdf.

ACGME Report Form

The diagram below presents an example set of milestones for one sub-competency in the same format as the milestone report worksheet. For each reporting period, a resident's performance on the milestones for each sub-competency will be indicated by:

• selecting the level of milestones that best describes the resident's performance in relation to the milestones

or,

• selecting the "Has not Achieved Level 1" option

| Has not achieve Level 1 | d Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes that an in- depth knowledge of the patient and a broad knowledge of sciences are essential to the work of family physicians Demonstrates basic decision making capabilities Demonstrates the capacity to correctly interpret basic clinical | Synthesizes information from multiple resources to make clinical decisions Begins to integrate social and behavioral sciences with biomedical knowledge in patient care Anticipates expected and unexpected outcomes of the patients' clinical condition and data | Recognizes and reconciles knowledge of patient and medicine to act in patients' best interest Recognizes the effect of an individual's condition on families and populations | Integrates and synthesizes knowledge to make decisions in complex clinical situations Uses experience with patient panels to address population health | Integrates in-depth medical and personal knowledge of patient, family and community to decide, develop, and implement treatment plans Collaborates with the participants necessary to address important healt problems for both individuals and communities |
| | tests and images | | | | |
| Comments: | | | | | |
| lev in | lecting a response box in th vel implies that milestones i lower levels have been sub monstrated. | n that level and | indicates that milest | e box on the line in between cones in lower levels have be istrated as well as some mile | en |

FAMILY MEDICINE MILESTONES

ACGME Report Worksheet

PATIENT CARE

Family physicians provide accessible, quality, comprehensive, compassionate, continuous, and coordinated care to patients in the context of family and community, not limited by age, gender, disease process, or clinical setting, and by using the biopsychosocial perspective and patient-centered model of care.

| as not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Gathers essential information about the patient (history, exam, diagnostic testing, psychosocial context) Generates differential diagnoses Recognizes role of | Consistently recognizes common situations that require urgent or emergent medical care Stabilizes the acutely ill patient utilizing appropriate clinical protocols and guidelines | Consistently recognizes complex situations requiring urgent or emergent medical care Appropriately prioritizes the response to the acutely ill patient Develops appropriate | Coordinates care of acutely ill patient with consultants and community services Demonstrates awareness of personal limitations regarding procedures, knowledge, and experience in the care of | Provides and coordinates care for acutely ill patients within local and regiona systems of care |
| | clinical protocols and guidelines in acute situations | Generates appropriate differential diagnoses for any presenting complaint Develops appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic management plans for acute conditions | diagnostic and therapeutic management plans for less common acute conditions Addresses the psychosocial implications of acute illness on patients and families Arranges appropriate transitions of care | acutely ill patients | |
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| las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes chronic conditions Accurately documents a clinical encounter on a patient with a chronic condition, and generates a problem list Recognizes that chronic conditions have a social impact on individual patients | Establishes a relationship with the patient as his or her personal physician Collects, organizes and reviews relevant clinical information Recognizes variability and natural progression of chronic conditions and adapts care accordingly Develops a management plan that includes appropriate clinical guidelines Uses quality markers to evaluate the care of patients with chronic conditions Understands the role of registries in managing patient and population health | Consistently applies appropriate clinical guidelines to the treatment plan of the patient with chronic conditions Engages the patient in the self- management of his or her chronic condition Clarifies the goals of care for the patient across the course of the chronic condition and for his or her family and community Begins to manage the conflicting needs of patients with multiple chronic conditions or multiple co- morbidities | Leads care teams to consistently and appropriately manage patients with chronic conditions and co- morbidities Facilitates patients' and families' efforts at self- management of their chronic conditions, including use of community resources and services | Personalizes the care of complex patients with multiple chronic conditions and co- morbidities to help meet the patients' goals of card Continually uses experience with patients and evidence-based medicine in population management of chronic condition patients |
| | | | | | |

| las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Collects family, social, and behavioral history Demonstrates awareness of recommendations for health maintenance and screening guidelines developed by various organizations | Identifies the roles of behavior, social determinants of health, and genetics as factors in health promotion and disease prevention Incorporates disease prevention and health promotion into practice Reconciles recommendations for health maintenance and screening guidelines developed by various organizations | Explains the basis of health promotion and disease prevention recommendations to patients with the goal of shared decision making Describes risks, benefits, costs, and alternatives related to health promotion and disease prevention activities Partners with the patient and family to overcome barriers to disease prevention and health promotion Mobilizes team members and links patients with community resources to achieve health promotion and disease prevention and disease prevention goals | Tracks and monitors disease prevention and health promotion for the practice population Integrates disease prevention and health promotion seamlessly in the ongoing care of all patients | Integrates practice and community data to improve population health Partners with the community to improve population health |
| | | | | | |

| patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns are appropriate for the family physician and commits to addressing their concernsdifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns, and prioritizes an appropriate evaluation and treatment planunderstanding of their expected course and events that require physician notificationresponsibility to care for patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernscaring for patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsChooses and limits diagnostic testing and consultations that will change the management of undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsDevelops treatment planInvestigates emergi science and uses appropriate community and family resources to symptoms, or health concerns for the patientInvestigates emergi science and uses appropriate community and family resources to undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsDevelops treatment planInvestigates emergi science and uses appropriate community and family resources to minimize the effect of the undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsInvestigates emergi science and uses appropriate community and family resources to minimize the effect of the undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsContributes to the development of undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsconcernsconcernsContributes to the development of undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concernsContributes to the development of me more efficientlyEstablishes rapport with patients confidently accept the assessment of a | las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| undiagnosed condition | | patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns are appropriate for the family physician and commits to addressing | differential diagnosis for patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns, and prioritizes an appropriate evaluation and treatment plan Chooses and limits diagnostic testing and consultations that will change the management of undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health | understanding of their expected course and events that require physician notification Identifies the medical and social needs of patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns Utilizes multidisciplinary resources to assist patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns in order to deliver health care | responsibility to care for patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns Develops treatment plans that include periodic assessment and that use appropriate community and family resources to minimize the effect of the undifferentiated signs, symptoms, and health concerns for the patient Establishes rapport with patients to the degree that patients confidently accept | undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns Investigates emerging science and uses multidisciplinary teams t care for patients with undifferentiated signs, symptoms, or health concerns Contributes to the development of medical knowledge around undifferentiated signs, symptoms, and health |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Identifies procedures that family physicians perform Demonstrates sterile technique | Performs procedures under supervision, and knows the indications of, contraindications of, how to obtain informed consent for, procedural technique for, post- procedure management of, and interpretation of results of the procedures they perform Begins the process of identifying additional procedural skills he or she may need or desire to have for future practice | Uses appropriate resources to counsel the patient on the indications, contraindications, and complications of procedures Identifies and actively seeks opportunities to assist with or independently perform additional procedures he or she will need for future practice | Independently performs all procedures required for graduation Counsels the patient regarding indications, contraindications, and complications of procedures commonly performed by other specialties Identifies a plan to acquire additional procedural skills as needed for practice | Seeks additional opportunities to perform or assist with procedure identified as areas of need within the community |
| | | | | | |

Version 9/2013 MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

The practice of family medicine demands a broad and deep fund of knowledge to proficiently care for a diverse patient population with undifferentiated health care needs.

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | | Leve | el 2 | | | Leve | el 3 | | | Lev | el 4 | | | Leve | el 5 | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|-------------|------|---------|-------------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|------------|------------|-------|
| | Demonstrates the | Uses | he Amer | ican Board | l of | Meets | Maintena | nce of | | Succe | ssfully o | complet | tes | Main | tains AB | FM | |
| | capacity to improv | e Famil | y Medicir | ne (ABFM) | In- | Certifi | cation (M | DC) | | ABFM | l require | ements | for | certi | fication | | |
| | medical knowledge | Train | ng Asses | sment | | requir | ements in | prepara | ition | certifi | cation | | | | | | |
| | through targeted | reside | nt scaled | d score to | | for ce | rtification | examina | tion | | | | | Dem | onstrates | s life-lor | ng |
| | study | furth | er guide ł | nis or her | | | | | | Appro | priately | / uses, | | learn | ing beyo | nd | |
| | | educa | tion | | | Achiev | ves an ABF | M In-Tra | aining | perfo | rms, and | d interp | orets | minii | num MC | C and | |
| | | | | | | Assess | ment resid | dent sca | led | diagn | ostic tes | sts and | | Main | tenance | of Licer | nsure |
| | | Demo | nstrates | capacity to | C | score | predictive | of passi | ng the | proce | dures | | | (MO | L) require | ements | |
| | | asses | and act | on person | al | certifi | cation exa | minatior | n | | | | | | | | |
| | | learn | ng needs | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| is not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Recognizes that an in- | Synthesizes information | Recognizes and reconciles | Integrates and synthesizes | Integrates in-depth |
| | depth knowledge of | from multiple resources to | knowledge of patient and | knowledge to make | medical and personal |
| | the patient and a | make clinical decisions | medicine to act in patients' | decisions in complex | knowledge of patient, |
| | broad knowledge of | | best interest | clinical situations | family and community |
| | sciences are essential | Begins to integrate social | | | decide, develop, and |
| | to the work of family | and behavioral sciences | Recognizes the effect of an | Uses experience with | implement treatment |
| | physicians | with biomedical knowledge in patient care | individual's condition on families and populations | patient panels to address population health | plans |
| | Demonstrates basic | | | | Collaborates with the |
| | decision making | Anticipates expected and | | | participants necessary |
| | capabilities | unexpected outcomes of | | | address important hea |
| | | the patients' clinical | | | problems for both |
| | Demonstrates the | condition and data | | | individuals and |
| | capacity to correctly | | | | communities |
| | interpret basic clinical | | | | |
| | tests and images | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Version 9/2013 SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

The stewardship of the family physician helps to ensure high value, high quality, and accessibility in the health care system. The family physician uses his or her role to anticipate and engage in advocacy for improvements to health care systems to maximize patient health.

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Understands that health care resources and costs impact patients and the health care system | Knows and considers costs and risks/benefits of different treatment options in common situations | Coordinates individual patient care in a way that is sensitive to resource use, efficiency, and effectiveness | Partners with patients to consistently use resources efficiently and cost effectively in even the most complex and challenging cases | Role models and promotes efficient and cost-effective use of resources in the care of patients in all settings |
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| as not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| | Understands that medical errors affect | Recognizes medical errors when they occur, including | Uses current methods of analysis to identify individual | Consistently engages in self-directed and practice | Role models self-directed and system improvement |
| | patient health and | those that do not have | and system causes of medical | improvement activities | activities that seek to |
| | safety, and that their occurrence varies | adverse outcomes | errors common to family medicine | that seek to identify and address medical errors and | continuously anticipate, identify and prevent |
| | across settings and | Understands the | | patient safety in daily | medical errors to improv |
| | between providers | mechanisms that cause medical errors | Develops individual improvement plan and | practice | patient safety in all practice settings, |
| | Understands that | | participates in system | Fosters adherence to patient care protocols | including the |
| | effective team-based care plays a role in | Understands and follows protocols to promote | improvement plans that promote patient safety and | amongst team members | development, use, and promotion of patient ca |
| | patient safety | patient safety and prevent medical errors | prevent medical errors | that enhance patient safety and prevent medical errors | protocols and other too |
| | | Participates in effective and | | | |
| | | safe hand-offs and transitions of care | | | |
| | | | | | |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes social context and environment, and how a community's public policy decisions affect individual and community health | Recognizes that family physicians can impact community health Lists ways in which community characteristics and resources affect the health of patients and communities | Identifies specific community characteristics that impact specific patients' health Understands the process of conducting a community strengths and needs assessment | Collaborates with other practices, public health, and community-based organizations to educate the public, guide policies, and implement and evaluate community initiatives | Role-models active involvement in community education and policy change to improve the health of patients and communitie |
| | | | | Seeks to improve the health care systems in which he or she practices | |
| | | | | | |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Understands that quality patient care requires coordination and teamwork, and participates as a respectful and effective team member | Understands the roles and responsibilities of oneself, patients, families, consultants, and interprofessional team members needed to optimize care, and accepts responsibility for coordination of care | Engages the appropriate care team to provide accountable, team-based, coordinated care centered on individual patient needs Assumes responsibility for seamless transitions of care Sustains a relationship as a personal physician to his or her | Accepts responsibility for the coordination of care, and directs appropriate teams to optimize the health of patients | Role models leadership, integration, and optimization of care teams to provide quality individualized patient care |
| | | | own patients | | |
| | | | | | |

Version 9/2013 PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

The family physician must demonstrate 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 life-long learning.

| las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Describes basic concepts in clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, and clinical reasoning | Identifies pros and cons of various study designs, associated types of bias, and patient-centered outcomes | Applies a set of critical appraisal criteria to different types of research, including synopses of original research findings, systematic reviews | Incorporates principles of evidence-based care and information mastery into clinical practice | Independently teache and assesses evidence based medicine and information mastery techniques |
| | Categorizes the design of a research study | Formulates a searchable question from a clinical question Evaluates evidence-based | and meta-analyses, and clinical practice guidelines Critically evaluates information from others, including colleagues, experts, and | | |
| | | point-of-care resources | pharmaceutical representatives, as well as patient-delivered information | | |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Acknowledges gaps in personal knowledge and expertise and frequently asks for feedback Uses feedback to improve learning and performance | Incorporates feedback and evaluations to assess performance and develop a learning plan Uses point-of-care, evidence-based information and guidelines to answer clinical questions | Has a self-assessment and learning plan that demonstrates a balanced and accurate assessment of competence and areas for continued improvement | Identifies own clinical information needs based, in part, on the values and preferences of each patient Demonstrates use of a system or process for keeping up with relevant changes in medicine Completes ABFM MOC requirements for residents Consistently evaluates self and practice, using appropriate evidence- based standards, to implement changes in practice to improve patient care and its delivery | Regularly seeks to determine and maintain knowledge of best evidence supporting common practices, demonstrating consiste behavior of regularly reviewing evidence in common practice areas Initiates or collaborates research to fill knowled gaps in family medicine Integrates MOC into ongoing practice assessment and improvement Role models continuous self-improvement and care delivery improvements using appropriate, current knowledge and best- practice standards |
| | | | | | |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes inefficiencies, inequities, variation, and quality gaps in health care delivery | Compares care provided by self and practice to external standards and identifies areas for improvement | Uses a systematic improvement method (e.g., Plan-Do-Study- Act [PDSA] cycle) to address an identified area of improvement Uses an organized method, such as a registry, to assess and manage population health | Establishes protocols for continuous review and comparison of practice procedures and outcomes and implementing changes to address areas needing improvement | Role models continuous quality improvement of personal practice, as wel as larger health systems or complex projects, using advanced methodologies and skill sets |
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Version 9/2013 PROFESSIONALISM

Family physicians share the belief that health care is best organized and delivered in a patient-centered model, emphasizing patient autonomy, shared responsibility, and responsiveness to the needs of diverse populations. Family physicians place the interests of patients first while setting and maintaining high standards of competence and integrity for themselves and their professional colleagues. Professionalization is the developmental process that requires individuals to accept responsibility for learning and maintaining the standards of the discipline, including self-regulating lapses in ethical standards. Family physicians maintain trust by identifying and ethically managing the potential conflicting interests of individual patients, patients' families, society, the medical industry, and their own self-interests.

| s not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Defines | Recognizes own conflicting | Recognizes that physicians | Embraces the professional | Demonstrates leadersh |
| | professionalism | personal and professional | have an obligation to self- | responsibilities of being a | and mentorship in |
| | | values | discipline and to self-regulate | family physician | applying shared |
| | Knows the basic | | | | standards and ethical |
| | principles of medical | Knows institutional and | Engages in self-initiated pursuit | | principles, including th |
| | ethics | governmental regulations | of excellence | | priority of responsiven |
| | | for the practice of medicine | | | to patient needs above |
| | Recognizes that | | | | self-interest across the |
| | conflicting personal | | | | health care team |
| | and professional | | | | |
| | values exist | | | | Develops institutional |
| | | | | | organizational strategi |
| | Demonstrates | | | | to protect and maintai |
| | honesty, integrity, and | | | | these principles |
| | respect to patients | | | | |
| | and team members | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Presents him or herself in a respectful and professional manner Attends to responsibilities and completes duties as required Maintains patient confidentiality Documents and reports clinical and administrative information truthfully | Consistently recognizes limits of knowledge and asks for assistance Has insight into his or her own behavior and likely triggers for professionalism lapses, and is able to use this information to be professional Completes all clinical and administrative tasks promptly Identifies appropriate channels to report unprofessional behavior | Recognizes professionalism lapses in self and others Reports professionalism lapses using appropriate reporting procedures | Maintains appropriate professional behavior without external guidance Exhibits self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management Negotiates professional lapses of the medical team | Models professional conduct placing the needs of each patient above self-interest Helps implement organizational policies to sustain medicine as a profession |
| | | | | | |

| as not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Consistently demonstrates compassion, respect, and empathy Recognizes impact of culture on health and health behaviors | Displays a consistent attitude and behavior that conveys acceptance of diverse individuals and groups, including diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, sexual orientation, and gender identity Elicits cultural factors from patients and families that impact health and health behaviors in the context of the biopsychosocial model Identifies own cultural framework that may impact patient interactions and decision-making | Incorporates patients' beliefs, values, and cultural practices in patient care plans Identifies health inequities and social determinants of health and their impact on individual and family health | Anticipates and develops a shared understanding of needs and desires with patients and families; works in partnership to meet those needs | Demonstrates leadershi in cultural proficiency, understanding of health disparities, and social determinants of health Develops organizational policies and education t support the application these principles in the practice of medicine |
| | | | | | |

| as not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Demonstrates awareness of the importance of maintenance of emotional, physical, and mental health Recognizes fatigue, sleep deprivation, and impairment | Applies basic principles of physician wellness and balance in life to adequately manage personal emotional, physical, and mental health Balances physician well- being with patient care needs Accepts constructive feedback | Actively seeks feedback and provides constructive feedback to others Recognizes signs of impairment in self and team members, and responds appropriately | Appropriately manages situations in which maintaining personal emotional, physical, and mental health are challenged | Optimizes professional responsibilities through the application of principles of physician wellness to the practice of medicine Maintains competency appropriate to scope o practice |
| | | | | | |

Version 9/2013 COMMUNICATION

The family physician demonstrates interpersonal and communication skills that foster trust, and result in effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, health professionals, and the public.

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes that effective relationships are important to quality care | Creates a non-judgmental, safe environment to actively engage patients and families to share information and their perspectives | Effectively builds rapport with a growing panel of continuity patients and families Respects patients' autonomy in their health care decisions and clarifies patients' goals to provide care consistent with their values | Connects with patients and families in a continuous manner that fosters trust, respect, and understanding, including the ability to manage conflict | Role models effective, continuous, personal relationships that optimize the well-being of the patient and family |
| | | | | | |

| las not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Recognizes that | Matches modality of | Negotiates a visit agenda with | Educates and counsels | Role models effective |
| | respectful | communication to patient | the patient, and uses active | patients and families in | communication with |
| | communication is | needs, health literacy, and | and reflective listening to guide | disease management and | patients, families, and th |
| | important to quality care | context | the visit | health promotion skills | public |
| | | Organizes information to be | Engages patients' perspectives | Effectively communicates | Engages community |
| | Identifies physical, | shared with patients and | in shared decision making | difficult information, such | partners to educate the |
| | cultural, psychological, | families | | as end-of-life discussions, | public |
| | and social barriers to | | Recognizes non-verbal cues | delivery of bad news, | |
| | communication | Participates in end-of-life | and uses non-verbal | acknowledgement of | |
| | | discussions and delivery of | communication skills in patient | errors, and during | |
| | Uses the medical | bad news | encounters | episodes of crisis | |
| | interview to establish | | | | |
| | rapport and facilitate | | | Maintains a focus on | |
| | patient-centered | | | patient-centeredness and | |
| | information exchange | | | integrates all aspects of | |
| | | | | patient care to meet | |
| | | | | patients' needs | |
| | | | | | |

| Has not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Understands the importance of the health care team and shows respect for the skills and contributions of others | Demonstrates consultative exchange that includes clear expectations and timely, appropriate exchange of information Presents and documents patient data in a clear, concise, and organized manner | Effectively uses Electronic Health Record (EHR) to exchange information among the health care team Communicates collaboratively with the health care team by listening attentively, sharing information, and giving and receiving constructive feedback | Sustains collaborative working relationships during complex and challenging situations, including transitions of care Effectively negotiates and manages conflict among members of the health care team in the best interest of the patient | Role models effective collaboration with othe providers that emphasizes efficient patient-centered care |
| | | | | | |

| as not achieved Level 1 | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recognizes effects of technology on information exchange and the physician/patient relationship Recognizes the ethical and legal implications of using technology to communicate in health care | Ensures that clinical and administrative documentation is timely, complete, and accurate Maintains key patient- specific databases, such as problem lists, medications, health maintenance, chronic disease registries Uses technology in a manner which enhances communication and does not interfere with the appropriate interaction with the patient | Ensures transitions of care are accurately documented, and optimizes communication across systems and continuums of care | Effectively and ethically uses all forms of communication, such as face-to-face, telephonic, electronic, and social media Uses technology to optimize continuity care of patients and transitions of care | Stays current with technology and adapts systems to improve communication with patients, other provider and systems |
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