How Do Graduating Internal Medicine Residents and Incoming Fellows Self-assess Their Confidence in Performing the 16 Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine Entrustable Professional Activities?

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Aim

• Investigate how graduating internal medicine residents and incoming fellows self-assess their confidence in performing the 16 entrustable professional activities (EPAs.)

Background

• The US medical education system is designed to teach trainees to practice medicine with progressive independence.
• In 2011, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) adopted a model using EPAs to provide formative and summative competency evaluation.
• The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM) identified sixteen EPAs for internal medicine residency training.

Methods

• Graduating residents and incoming fellows were invited to participate in the survey (n=37).
• Fellows were only included if they started fellowship directly following residency.
• The participants were asked to rate their own confidence in performing the EPAs on a 1-5 Likert scale (5 represents highest confidence).
• Residents completed the survey on the last day of residency and fellows on the first day of fellowship orientation.
• Demographics analyzed included gender, race, age, USMLE Step 1 and 2 scores.
• The participants self-assessed their confidence to be lowest in performing these three EPAs:
  • Provide age appropriate screening and preventative care (EPA 4).
  • Provide perioperative assessment and care (EPA 6).
  • Improve the quality of health care at both the individual and systems level (EPA 13). (Figure 2).
• Females were less confident in resuscitating, stabilizing and caring for critically ill patients (OR = 0.22; p=0.048) and providing perioperative assessment and care (OR = 0.18; p=0.02).
• As USMLE Step 1 scores increased, residents and fellows were more confident in providing general internal medicine consultation to nonmedical specialties (OR = 1.05; p=0.03).
• Graduating residents reported higher confidence than incoming fellows in resuscitating, stabilizing and caring for unstable or critically ill patients, but this did not achieve statistical significance (p=0.09).

Results

Figure 1. Entrustable professional activities survey.

Figure 2. Average score for self-assessed confidence in each entrustable professional activity.

Conclusion

• Overall, our self-assessment data suggests that graduating internal medicine residents are moderately confident in performing the EPAs.
• While the AAIM expects all internal medicine residency graduates to demonstrate competence in performing these 16 EPAs, our self-assessment data has identified potential gaps in achieving this standard for some of these activities.
• Improving the quality of health care at the systems level is a known challenge in patient care that affects every level of physician learning from trainee through attending practice.
• Further investigation into the reasons for our findings may reveal important areas of focus for medical educators.
• Self-assessed confidence may or may not correlate with actual confidence. This is the closest surrogate for analysis.

References