

## Addressing EPA 10: Stat Acuity Nurse Experience in the Subinternship

Contributors: Michelle Sweet, MD; Christine Tsai, MD; Irene Hossain - Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL

### Background

- AAMC Core Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) 10 for students involves recognizing a patient who requires urgent intervention and initiating evaluation and management
- A 2014 Residency Program Director EPA survey found that program directors believed only 55% of first week interns were capable of performing this EPA without direct supervision
- Most students have highly variable exposure to acute scenarios during their subinternship

### Objective

- To incorporate a valuable experience with consistent exposure to acute care scenarios for Internal Medicine subinterns

### Setting & Participants

#### Scheduling

- Each subintern was paired with a stat acuity nurse for one full day (6am – 4pm)

#### Participation

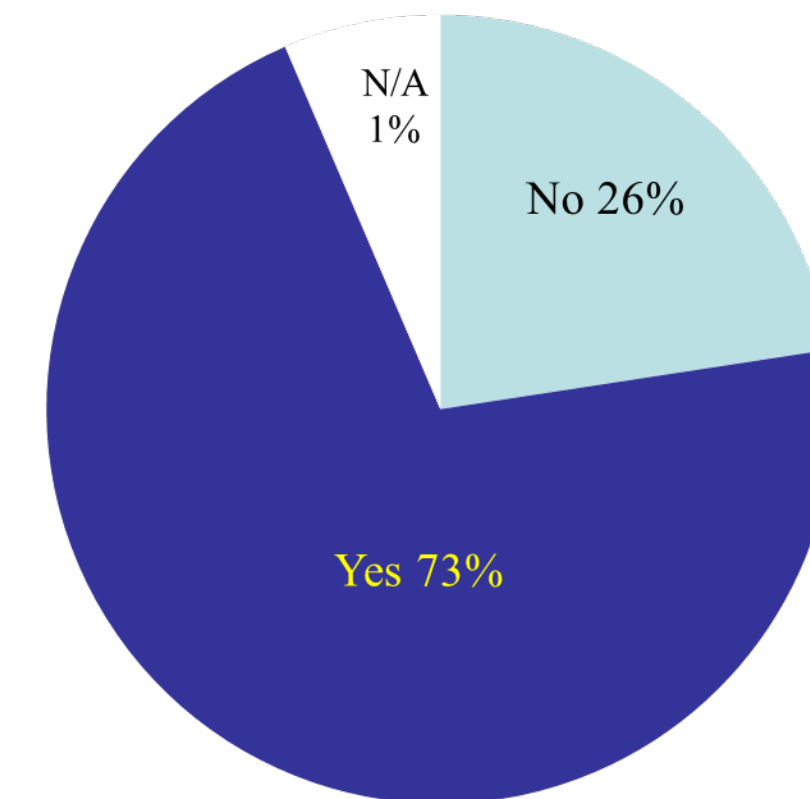
- Students responded to code blues, rapid responses, ICU transfers, and other urgent issues throughout the hospital
- Students assisted with starting IVs with ultrasound guidance, obtaining ABGs, and participating in CPR during a code
- 33 students participated in the program from May to November 2016

#### Feedback

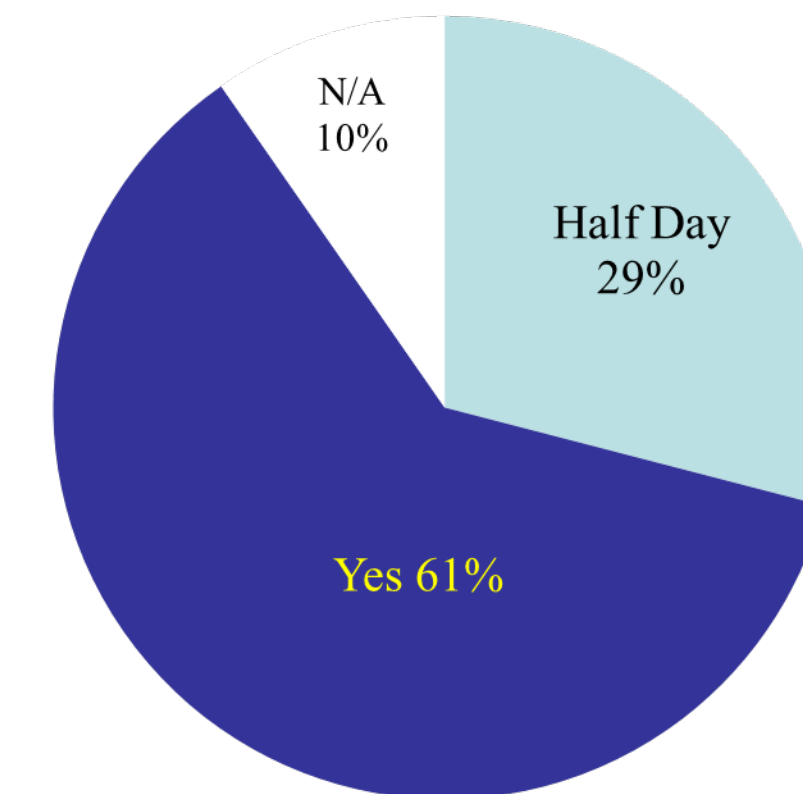
- We evaluated the students' experience with a four question survey

### Survey Results (N = 31)

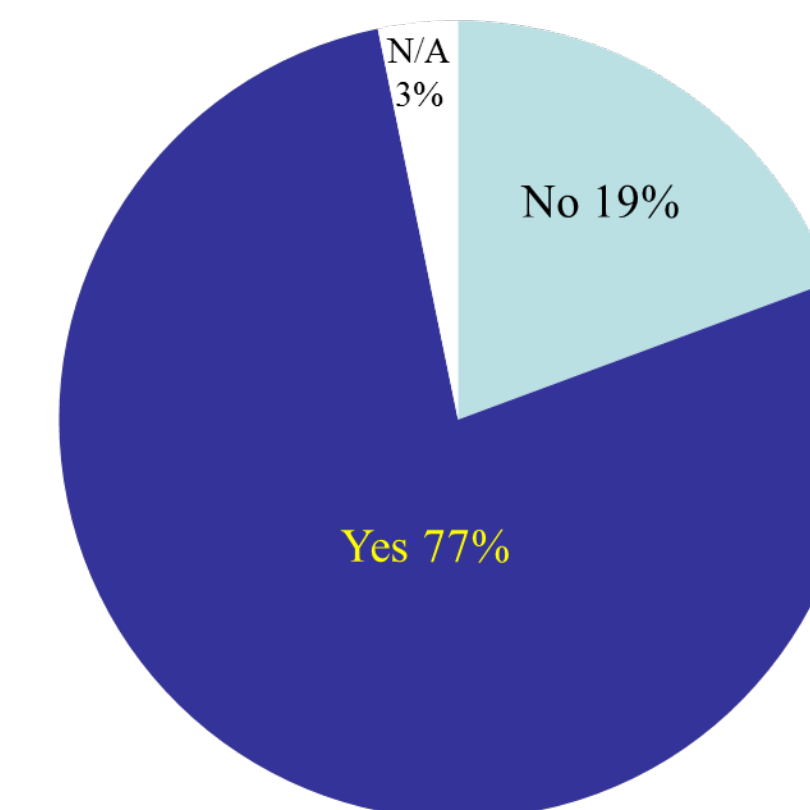
This experience was worthwhile



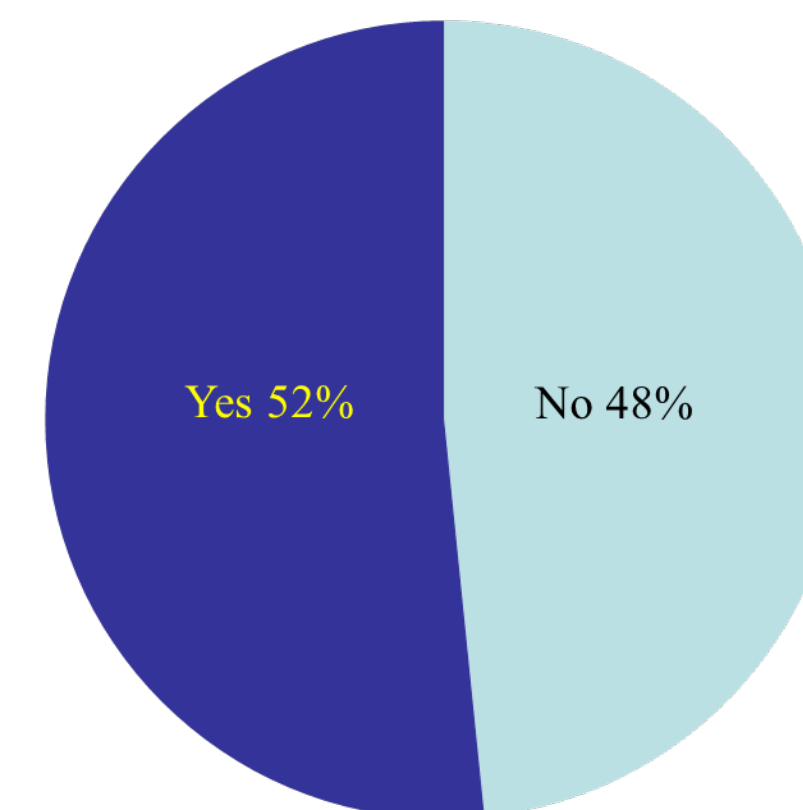
1 day is an appropriate amount of time for this activity



This activity should continue for future subinterns



I feel more comfortable in the diagnosis and management of urgent issues



### Student Comments

- *"Really great experience, one of my favorite days on the rotation."*
- *"I learned about how much nurses do before a doctor even comes in."*
- *"It was a slow day, would be good if higher yield."*
- *"My day was slow but it was useful to learn what stat acuity does. Learning other perspectives is very helpful."*
- *"I did some IVs and used an ultrasound. The stat acuity nurses are great teachers!"*

### Discussion

- Through this program that did not require extra funding, 52% of students felt more comfortable with the diagnosis and management of acute care scenarios
- Students that did not find the activity valuable participated on days where there were no significant emergency situations
- The primary challenge remains the unpredictability of how eventful a given day may be
- An unexpected positive outcome was that this became an interprofessional activity for medical students
- Students gained an increased appreciation for bedside and stat acuity nurses while learning about nursing roles and perspectives

### Next Steps

#### Potential modifications for the upcoming year:

- Schedule an evening shift experience that may have more acute events
- Assign the student a virtual pager to allow them to return to team rounds and be paged for acute events
- Create a formal teaching curriculum with stat acuity nurses
- Involve nursing students to make this a World Health Organization defined interprofessional educational experience