

CLINICAL COMPETENCY EXERCISE FOR TRANSITIONAL INTERNS AT THE NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

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As part of the effort to educate our transitional intern class on the competency-based evaluation process used to assess their performance, we embarked on a program that would educate our group on the core clinical competencies as outlined by the ACGME in 1999. Our twelve interns divided into groups of two and each prepared a presentation on one of the six clinical competencies as outlined below:

- 1) Patient Care: History Taking, Technical/Procedural Skills , Decision-Making and Clinical Judgment
- 2) Medical Knowledge: Fund of Knowledge
- 3) Practice Based Learning: Evidenced Based Medicine and Outcomes
- 4) Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- 5) Professionalism: Ethics, Sensitivity and Continuity of Care
- 6) Systems Based Practices: Effectiveness and Integration

The presentations were given at our dedicated monthly meetings (one at each monthly meeting for first six months of training) and were graded by intern peers and the program directors. They took about one to two hours in preparation time and were delivered by Power-Point presentation, in less than one half hour. Each team provided the program coordinator with a CD or email copy of their presentation and handouts for the audience. The interns were required to do a literature search for their presentations. The AMA and ACGME websites were felt to have the best overall information.

Intern acceptance of the exercise was good. Most thought the exercise was useful in understanding the evaluation process. Some expressed concern that the presentations were too general while others were uncertain as to where to find information for the presentation. Most felt the “peer evaluation” was fair and viewed it as a “peer” review of CME presentation.

We are planning to continue and refine this exercise based largely on the input received from our interns. We also felt the exercise was useful to assess our interns’ organizational and presentation skills. This exercise meets the following ACGME competencies: (1) Professionalism, (2) Medical knowledge, (3) Practice-based learning and improvement and (4) Communication and interpersonal skills.

Time to explain the project to the interns: 10 minutes

Time spent by the interns on preparation: 1-2 hours

Time of presentation: 15-20 minutes on average

Time spent on feedback forms: 5 minutes

