

Supplemental Guide: Pain Medicine



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Milestones Supplemental Guide

This document provides additional guidance and examples for the Pain Medicine Milestones. This is not designed to indicate any specific requirements for each level, but to provide insight into the thinking of the Milestone Work Group.

Included in this document is the intent of each Milestone and examples of what a Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) might expect to be observed/assessed at each level. Also included are suggested assessment models and tools for each subcompetency, references, and other useful information.

Review this guide with the CCC and faculty members. As the program develops a shared mental model of the Milestones, consider creating an individualized guide (Supplemental Guide Template available) with institution/program-specific examples, assessment tools used by the program, and curricular components.

Additional tools and references, including the Milestones Guidebook, Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook, and Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows, are available on the Resources page of the Milestones section of the ACGME website.

Patient Care 1: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate Information to Define Each Patient's Clinical Problem(s) (Neurology and Musculoskeletal)

Overall Intent: To demonstrate progression in the areas of history taking, physical examination, and formulation of the correct diagnosis, with emphasis placed on inclusion of broad and complete sources of information including the patient, patient-reported outcomes, biopsychosocial data, and secondary sources of data (e.g., medical record)

biopsychosocial data, and secondary sources of data (e.g., medical record)		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Acquires accurate medical histories	Adheres to note template when acquiring medical histories	
Performs accurate physical exams	Asks about headache healthy habits	
Develops limited differential diagnoses	Performs respiratory, cardiovascular and abdominal exam; needs guidance to organize neurological and musculoskeletal exams	
Level 2 Acquires accurate and relevant pain histories	When patients state they stay well hydrated, asks follow-up questions to determine exact daily fluid intake, types of liquids, daily caffeine, and sugary drink intake	
Performs relevant pain-based physical exams	 Examines a patient for Beighton criteria for joint hypermobility In a patient with widespread pain, examines and looks for tender points in all four quadrants Talks patient through the exam, explaining each step 	
Uses and synthesizes collected data, including patient-reported outcomes, to define a patient's central clinical problem(s) and generate a prioritized differential diagnosis and problem list	 Provides differential diagnosis for an L5 radiculopathy Uses the Functional Disability Inventory trends over time to assess efficacy of treatment plan 	
Level 3 Acquires accurate and relevant pain histories in the context of a patient with complex medical conditions	 Obtains an accurate medical history of acute pain symptoms superimposed on chronic pain Adjusts hip examination technique in a patient with previous total hip arthroplasty 	
Performs accurate and relevant physical exams that are targeted to the patient's problems	 During abdominal exam, looks for signs consistent with visceral hyperalgesia versus neuralgia versus myofascial pain Demonstrates on self potentially painful elements of exam (e.g., pinprick for sensory testing for patients with neuropathic pain) 	
Efficiently uses the biopsychosocial data to inform the differential diagnosis	 Obtains history of substance misuse in a patient with chronic pain to inform treatment options Interprets discrepancies between functional outcomes and pain scale responses Modifies treatment plan based on Functional Disability Inventory trends 	

Level 4 Efficiently acquires accurate and relevant pain history in the context of a patient with complex medical conditions	 If patient has multi-site pain, asks the patient to rank the areas with the most to the least impact on function and starts to gather pain history in that order Asks patients about sleep hygiene, including bedtime, wake-up time, length to onset of sleep, number of awakenings during the night, ease of going back to sleep, use of electronic devices around bedtime, caffeine intake, and exercise routine
Performs hypothesis-driven physical exams that identify subtle or unusual physical exam findings in patients with uncommon conditions	Performs hook sign to look for slipping rib syndrome in patient with lower chest pain/rib cage pain
Efficiently uses all sources of secondary data to inform differential diagnosis	• In addition to institutional and external electronic health record (EHR) review, incorporates patient reported outcomes into differential diagnosis and development of treatment plan
Level 5 Acts as a role model and teaches the effective use of history taking, biopsychosocial, and physical examination skills to efficiently identify and treat multiple complex pain conditions	 During subspecialty rotation, identifies a patient who would benefit from multidisciplinary pain clinic evaluation, discusses referral with the patient, and if patient agrees, counsels an attending physician about placing a referral to pain clinic Supervises more junior residents during patient encounter
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Role playing Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Malanga GA, Mautner K. Musculoskeletal Physical Examination: An Evidence-Based Approach. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2016. ISBN:978-0323396233. O'Brien M. Aids to the Examination of the Peripheral Nervous System. 5th ed. Elsevier; 2010. ISBN:978-0702034473. Scholten P, Chekka K, Benzon HT. Physical examination of the patient with pain. In: Benzon HT, Raja SN, Fishman SM, et al. Essentials of Pain Medicine. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2017. ISBN:978-0323401968. Stanford Medicine. Stanford Medicine 25: Promoting the Culture of Bedside Medicine. https://stanfordmedicine25.stanford.edu/. 2021. Wahezi SE, Duarte RA, Yerra S, et al. Telemedicine during COVID-19 and beyond: A practical guide and best practices multidisciplinary approach for the orthopedic and neurologic pain physical examination. Pain Physician. 2020;23(4S):S205-S238. https://www.painphysicianjournal.com/linkout?issn=&vol=23&page=S205. 2021.

Patient Care 2: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate Information to Define Each Patient's Clinical Problem(s) (Psychiatric and Pain Comorbidities) Overall Intent: To master psychiatric history taking, mental status examination, and screening for common psychiatric comorbidities impacting pain treatment outcomes; to screen for additional high-risk factors that require modification of treatment plan; to understand and include patient reported outcomes, which will be increasingly required to assess efficacy of treatments and justify treatment selection **Milestones Examples** • Counsels adolescent patient about potential mood-related side effects of gabapentin Level 1 Acquires accurate psychiatric histories and conducts a mental status examination when prescribed for sciatica relevant Identifies common psychiatric diagnoses Asks patients to self-identify personality styles as easy going or "worriers" Level 2 Consistently acquires accurate • Asks patients about stressors in their lives • When patient identifies the stressor, fellow asks follow-up questions about how the psychiatric histories and conducts mental status examinations when relevant stressors make them feel (worried, stressed, overwhelmed, etc.) Screens patients for common psychiatric • Understands the rationale to triage patients into groups based on results of Risk comorbidities Assessment Tool (or similar) • Administers Risk Assessment Tool (or similar) to assess patient's risk for substance use disorder Level 3 Consistently and efficiently acquires • Utilizes and interprets screening tools to recognize when a patient is suffering from accurate psychiatric histories and conducts depression or anxiety mental status examinations when relevant; screens for common psychiatric comorbidities Consistently screens for adverse childhood • When starting a patient on opioids who is at moderate risk for opioid related adverse events, trauma, substance use disorders effects (misuse) based on Risk Assessment Tool, adjusts follow-up schedule and limits (SUDs), and safety medication quantity accordingly Level 4 Consistently uses screening to narrow • In patient with personality disorder, chronic pain, and severe pain disability, discusses the differential diagnosis for a patient with higher level of psychiatric intervention such as partial hospitalization and how taking care psychiatric comorbidities of mental health will positively influence treatment of pain • Places adolescent patients in a separate room from parents to privately and confidentially discuss smoking and use of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), alcohol, and illicit drugs Consistently follows trends in functional • Identifies risk level (low, medium, high) for substance use disorder based on results of assessment of a patient with common Risk Assessment Tool (or similar) psychiatric comorbidities

Level 5 Acts as a role model and teaches the effective use of history taking and conducting a mental status examination when relevant	Actively involved in research or development of tools related to patient reported outcomes
Acts as a role model and teaches how to screen for adverse childhood events, trauma, SUDs, and safety	Teaches more junior residents or medical students how to conduct a non-judgmental screening for substance use disorder
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation Role playing Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Adams MCB, Mackey SC. Assessment of chronic pain. In: Longnecker D, Newman M, Zapol W, Sandberg W, Mackey S. Anesthesiology. 3rd ed. McGraw Hill Education; 2017. ISBN:978-0071848817. Jackson WC. Connecting the dots: How adverse childhood experiences predispose to chronic pain. Practical Pain Management. 2021;20(3):24-28. https://www.practicalpainmanagement.com/treatments/psychological/connecting-dots-how-adverse-childhood-experiences-predispose-chronic-pain. 2021. Lawson EF, Wallace MS. Neurolytic agents. In: Deer TR, Leong MS, Buvanendran A, Kim PS, Panchal SJ, ed. Treatment of Chronic Pain by Interventional Approaches: the American Academy of Pain Medicine Textbook on Patient Management. New York: Springer; 2014. ISBN:978-1493918232. Leong MS, Kim PS, Saberski L. Cryoanalgesia. In: Deer TR, Leong MS, Buvanendran A, Kim PS, Panchal SJ, ed. Treatment of Chronic Pain by Interventional Approaches: the American Academy of Pain Medicine Textbook on Patient Management. New York: Springer; 2014. ISBN:978-1493918232. Younger J, McCue R, Mackey S. Pain outcomes: A brief review of instruments and techniques. Curr Pain Headache Rep. 2009;13(1):39-43. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2891384/. 2021.

Patient Care 3: In Collaboration with the Patient, Develops, and Achieves a Comprehensive Pain Treatment Plan for Each Patient; Includes Consideration of Available Pharmacologic, Behavioral, Rehabilitative, Interventional, Complementary/Alternative Approaches	
Overall Intent: To demonstrate progression in the design, implementation, follow-up, and adjustments of a comprehensive therapy plan	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Develops a plan for straightforward cases, with assistance	• Identifies the potential options for consultations and diagnostics in a patient with new (first time) onset of lower back pain without any risk factors or "red flag" symptoms such as neurological deficits and sees the patient for follow-up care
Consistently recognizes situations that require consultations or help from an attending physician	Requests rheumatological consultation for a patient with suspected inflammatory spondyloarthropathy
Manages straightforward cases, with direct supervision	Completes a routine medication refill visit with attending supervision under consideration of the indication, effects, side effects, interactions, and comorbidities
Level 2 Independently develops a plan for a straightforward case and implements it, with assistance	For the patient described under Level 1, reviews potential diagnostic interventions and implements a treatment plan including follow-up as indicated
Obtains appropriate consultations with specific questions for the consultant	Evaluates a complex pain patient, such as a patient with failed-back surgery syndrome under supervision and initiates appropriate consultations, such as physical therapy and spine surgery and provides follow-up care
Manages complex cases, with direct supervision	Evaluates a complex pain patient, such as a patient with complex regional pain syndrome and initiates the appropriate consultations such as physical therapy and reviews potential differential diagnostic options
Level 3 Develops a plan for a complex case and implements it, with minimal assistance	 Develops a treatment plan for a patient with failed-back surgery syndrome through incorporation of the consultant recommendations (spine surgeons, psychologists, and physical therapists) and follow-up care as indicated
Incorporates consultation results into a treatment plan Manages cases with indirect supervision	Actively manages the patient and makes adjustments to the treatment plan based on clinical outcomes and recommendations by the consultants and the patient's preferences during follow-up care
Level 4 Independently develops, implements, and monitors a comprehensive treatment plan	Independently manages a complex pain patient, such as a patient with cancer pain, through the various clinical stages including in the ambulatory and in-patient setting

Applies learning from consultants to similar patient care scenarios	Incorporates changes in the patient`s preferences and consult recommendations throughout the clinical course of the pain condition
Independently manages patients across applicable inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory clinical settings	Independently follows up and assesses the patient and clinical outcomes
Level 5 Effectively manages unusual, rare, or complex disorders in all appropriate clinical settings	Expertise is actively sought by referring physicians and patients themselves
Acts as role model and teaches complex patient-centered care	Shares own expertise using various communication channels such as meetings, publications, or presentations
Actively advances novel pain therapies	Advances and actively implements novel assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic tools
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Multisource feedback
	Review of records
	Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	Standard Pain Medicine Lite

Patient Care 4: Patient Counseling for Testing and Procedures Overall Intent: To identify risks and benefits for diagnostic testing and interventional pain procedures	
`	Examples
Level 1 Discusses the indications, contraindications, and potential risks of diagnostic testing and straightforward procedures and obtains and documents informed consent	 Informs patient of risks of performing lumbar medial branch denervation including bleeding, infection, increased pain, ineffectiveness, injury to nerves causing increased pain, weakness, or numbness in leg Lists common labs for inflammatory work-up for a young adult male with bilateral sacroiliac region pain Lists common labs for neuropathy work-up for paresthesia in stocking-glove distribution in a patient with no other known comorbidities
Level 2 Discusses the indications, contraindications, and potential risks of invasive diagnostic testing and complex procedures and obtains and documents informed consent	 Discusses risks and benefits of intrathecal pump placement Explains the cumulative effects of radiation exposure from radiographs, computerized tomography (CT), etc. Discusses the importance of first performing medial branch blocks prior to radiofrequency ablation because structural changes seen in the zygapophysial joint on radiographs, CT, or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) does not always predict zygapophysial joint-mediated pain
Level 3 Discusses the indications, contraindications, potential risks, and controversies of procedures for patients with common comorbidities and obtains and documents informed consent	 Discusses the risks of spinal cord stimulator with a patient who has a body mass index (BMI) of 35 Explains the rationale for dual diagnostic blocks prior to proceeding with radiofrequency ablation for suspected zygapophysial joint pain Explains the value of diagnostic intra-articular hip injection in a patient with history of moderate to severe hip osteoarthritis and chronic intractable low back pain despite spine injections
Level 4 Discusses the indications, contraindications, potential risks, and controversies procedures for patients with complex comorbidities and obtains and documents informed consent	Discussed risks and benefits of intrathecal pump placement in cancer patient on anticoagulation therapy Identifies in imaging the different types of transitional lumbosacral segments associated with Bertolotti's syndrome
Level 5 Quantifies evidence for risk-benefit analysis while obtaining informed consent for invasive diagnostic testing, complex procedures, or therapies	Accurately describes risks with percentages of complication from genicular nerve denervation procedures, as well as percent of patients who get 50 percent relief and for how long
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation

	Multisource feedback
	Role playing
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Annacone F, Dixon S, Kaufman A. A review of long-term pain relief after genicular nerve radiofrequency ablation in chronic knee osteoarthritis. <i>Pain Physician</i>. 2017;20(3):E437-E444. https://www.painphysicianjournal.com/linkout?issn=&vol=20&page=E437. 2021. Cohen SP, Bhaskar A, Bhatia A, et al. Consensus practice guidelines on interventions for lumbar facet joint pain from a multispecialty, international working group. <i>Reg Anesth Pain Med</i>. 2020;45(6):424-467. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7362874/. 2021. Deer TR, Lamer TJ, Pope JE, et al. The Neurostimulation Appropriateness Consensus Committee (NACC) safety guidelines for the reduction of severe neurological injury. https://www.com/doi/10.1111/ner.12564. 2021. Deer TR, Pope JE, Hayek SM, et al. The Polyanalgesic Consensus Conference (PACC): Recommendations on intrathecal drug infusion systems best practices and guidelines. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ner.12538. 2021. Wang RZ, Vashistha V, Kaur S, Houchens NW. Serotonin syndrome: Preventing, recognizing, and treating it. <i>Cleve Clin J Med</i>. 2016;83(11):810-817. https://www.ccjm.org/content/83/11/810.long. 2021.

procedures	
`	Examples
Level 1 Performs straightforward interventions, ensuring patient safety and comfort, with supervision	 Positions patient prone with lumbar support; uses appropriate sterile technique; obtains satisfactory fluoroscopic images, explains intervention to patient as it is being performed (e.g., saying "you will now feel a pinch and burn," when administering local anesthetic, with guidance from attending
Recognizes and manages complications in patients with common comorbidities, with supervision	Recognizes "wet tap" and informs patient of treatment options with help of attending
Level 2 Independently performs straightforward interventions, ensuring patient safety and comfort	 Positions patient prone with lumbar support; uses appropriate sterile technique; obtains satisfactory fluoroscopic images; explains intervention to patients as it is being performed (e.g., saying "you will now feel a pinch and burn," when administering local anesthetic independently
Independently recognizes and manages complications in patients with common comorbidities	Recognizes "wet tap" and can inform patient of treatment options independently
Level 3 Performs complex interventions, ensuring patient safety and comfort, with supervision	Performs spinal cord stimulator trial with attending supervision
Recognizes and manages complications in patients with complex comorbidities, with supervision	 Recognizes and treats signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome in patient with history of depression on multiple antidepressants who was recently started on cyclobenzaprine with help from attending
Level 4 Independently performs complex interventions, ensuring patient safety and comfort	Independently performs spinal cord stimulator trial
Independently recognizes and manages complications in patients with complex comorbidities	Recognizes and independently treats signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome in patient with history of depression on multiple antidepressants, who was recently started on cyclobenzaprine
Level 5 Independently performs complex interventions for a patient with complex	Independently implants intrathecal pump in cancer patient with malnutrition and on chronic anticoagulation therapy

comorbidities, ensuring patient safety and comfort Demonstrates expertise to teach and supervise others in the performance of invasive procedures	Teaches fellows or colleague how to implant a spinal cord stimulator
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Role playing
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Annacone F, Dixon S, Kaufman A. A review of long-term pain relief after genicular nerve radiofrequency ablation in chronic knee osteoarthritis. <i>Pain Physician</i>. 2017;20(3):E437-E444. https://www.painphysicianjournal.com/linkout?issn=&vol=20&page=E437. 2021. Cohen SP, Bhaskar A, Bhatia A, et al. Consensus practice guidelines on interventions for lumbar facet joint pain from a multispecialty, international working group. <i>Reg Anesth Pain Med</i>. 2020;45(6):424-467. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7362874/. 2021. Deer TR, Lamer TJ, Pope JE, et al. The Neurostimulation Appropriateness Consensus Committee (NACC) safety guidelines for the reduction of severe neurological injury. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7362874/. 2021. Deer TR, Lamer TJ, Pope JE, et al. The Neurostimulation Appropriateness Consensus Commendulation. 2017;20(1):15-30. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ner.12564. 2021. Deer TR, Pope JE, Hayek SM, et al. The Polyanalgesic Consensus Conference (PACC): Recommendations on intrathecal drug infusion systems best practices and guidelines. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ner.12538. 2021. Wang RZ, Vashistha V, Kaur S, Houchens NW. Serotonin syndrome: Preventing, recognizing, and treating it. <i>Cleve Clin J Med</i>. 2016;83(11):810-817. https://www.ccjm.org/content/83/11/810.long. 2021.

Patient Care 6: Provides Consultative Care Overall Intent: To provide timely, meaningful consults in a manner that maximizes multidisciplinary patient care management and is respectful of system-based practice issues	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Respectfully receives and provides a timely response to consultation request Recognizes the need for timely consultation	Consistently responds to page requesting an inpatient pain consult within an hour (or institutionally required timeframe)
based on disease acuity with supervision	
Level 2 Clarifies the consultative question after gathering data about a patient with a basic pain condition, with supervision Independently recognizes the need for timely	After discussion with the attending pain physician, calls the primary care provider to clarify which pain issue(s) the consult is for and the urgency for a patient with several pain complaints
consultation based on disease acuity	
Level 3 Communicates the redefined problem with the referring team when a recommendation differs from the original consultation question, with supervision	With the attending pain physician, determines it would be inappropriate to do an epidural steroid injection to a patient with primarily axial pain, and that a median branch block is indicated instead, along with the attending physician, calls the primary care provider to explain the rationale for this
Prioritizes management steps	Under supervision of attending pain physician, determines the patient consulted for a blood patch for a post-dural puncture headache has signs and symptoms consistent with increased intracranial pressure and requires imaging prior to proceeding
Level 4 Independently communicates the redefined problem with the referring team when a recommendation differs from the original consultation question	In scenario in Level 3, independently calls the primary care provider
Recognizes the economic impact and role of medical team dynamics when making recommendations to the referring team	In a patient with managed care health insurance, calls the case manager to obtain prior authorization for a procedure and explains the rationale for it
Level 5 Is identified as a role model for consultative care across the spectrum of disease complexity and social determinants of health	If two consultants/teams have differing opinions, provides clarity on best course of action for a patient with complex problems

Leads the multidisciplinary team to evaluate and integrate divergent recommendations to formulate a unified plan Assessment Models or Tools	Scenario: A patient with post-laminectomy syndrome has had chronic pain for two years following a L4-5 fusion. There is a herniated disc at L3-4, which has not responded to medications, epidural steroid injection, and physical therapy. • Convenes a phone conference with the spine surgeon to discuss whether spine fusion revision versus spinal cord stimulation would be the next appropriate step. • Chart review • Direct observation
	360-degree evaluations
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	Chang D, Gabriel E. 10 tips for hospitalists to achieve an effective medical consult. The
	Hospitalist. 2015;7. https://www.the-hospitalist.org/hospitalist/article/122225/10-tips-hospitalists-achieve-effective-medical-consult. 2021.

Medical Knowledge 1: Possesses Clinical Knowledge	
Overall Intent: To demonstrate and apply basic science and clinical knowledge to provide optimal care to patients presenting with a wide	
range of pain symptoms Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Possesses basic knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of pain for common pain conditions	Lists classes of medications and their primary molecular target Lists common medication side effects related to class of medications
Possesses basic knowledge of pain assessment and treatment modalities for common pain conditions	Describes common pain assessment tools (e.g., Visual Analog Scale)
Possesses basic knowledge of common interventional strategies to treat pain	Lists common procedures use in pain management (e., Trigger point injections, peripheral joint injections, epidural steroid injections)
Level 2 Possesses knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of pain for common pain conditions	Identifies relevant spine anatomy and key physical landmarks Describes mechanisms of action for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), opioid pain medications, antidepressant and neuromodulating medications
Possesses knowledge of pain assessment and treatment modalities for common pain conditions	 Identifies pertinent anatomic structures involved in pain generation Describes anatomy, indications, and risks for common pain procedures such as epidural steroid injections
Possesses knowledge of common interventional strategies to treat pain	Discusses limitations of common pain assessment tools
Level 3 Possesses knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, biopsychosocial factors, and pharmacology of pain for comprehensive pain care	Identifies biopsychosocial factors involved in pain syndromes Describes assessment tools for depression and anxiety
Possesses knowledge of pain assessment and treatment modalities for comprehensive pain care	 Outlines indications for pain psychology consultation and treatment approaches Describes specific pain interventions for cancer related pain syndromes
Possesses knowledge of interventional strategies to treat pain, including knowledge of non-standard cases	 Describes appropriate glucose and anticoagulation management strategies for interventional procedures in patients with comorbid conditions Understands pharmacology of ziconotide and its role in chronic pain management

Level 4 Possesses knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, biopsychosocial factors, and pharmacology of pain for comprehensive pain care of complex cases	Outlines patient specific pain treatment options for patients with substance use disorders and chronic kidney disease and/ or liver disease
Possesses knowledge of pain assessment and treatment modalities for comprehensive pain care of complex cases	Demonstrates knowledge of appropriate weaning of opioids in a post-operative patient to avoid withdrawal
Possesses knowledge of less commonly used interventional strategies to treat pain	Describes indications, contraindications, procedural risks/ benefits and demonstrates skills required for implantation of spinal cord stimulators
Level 5 Possesses knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, biopsychosocial factors, and pharmacology of pain for comprehensive pain care of rare or diagnostically ambiguous pain cases	Outlines multiple comorbidities impacting pain treatment recommendations Leads comprehensive pain interdisciplinary conferences
Possesses knowledge of pain assessment and treatment modalities for comprehensive pain care of rare or diagnostically ambiguous pain cases	Engages in clinical translational research projects to target novel pain interventions
Possesses knowledge to develop and postulate new interventional targets and methods to treat pain	Demonstrates ability to use medications to treat pain conditions without approved Food and Drug Administration (FDA) medications (atypical facial pain, erythromelalgia)
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation E-module multiple choice tests Multisource feedback Portfolio Reflection Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 The American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA). Pain Medicine Examination. https://theaba.org/pdfs/PM Content Outline.pdf. 2021. International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). ISAP Curriculum Outline on Pain for Medicine. https://www.iasp-pain.org/education/curricula/iasp-curriculum-outline-on-pain-for-medicine/. 2021.

Medical Knowledge 2: Diagnostic Testing and Imaging (e.g., Electrodiagnostics, Radiology, Laboratory) Overall Intent: To demonstrate knowledge of appropriate diagnostic tools in the work-up and management of a wide range of pain conditions **Examples Milestones** Level 1 Discusses a general diagnostic • Educates patient on importance of trialing physical therapy and oral medication trial first approach appropriate to the clinical presentation for new onset acute low back pain without red flag symptoms or neurologic deficits prior to proceeding with advanced imaging Interprets common diagnostic tests, with • Verbalizes presence of dynamic spine instability on flexion extension xrays when supervision prompted to look at the region of pathology Level 2 Considers diagnostic testing based on • Explains the rationale to defer advanced MR spine imaging for a patient presenting with new onset low back pain without red flag symptoms cost effectiveness and likelihood that results will influence clinical management • Independently interprets MR findings of left sided L4-L5 foraminal disc protrusion that is Consistently interprets common diagnostic tests consistent with exam findings • Explains the reason to defer electrodiagnostic testing until at least three weeks from injury **Level 3** Prioritizes the sequence and urgency of in a patient presenting with radicular upper extremity pain diagnostic studies Consistently interprets results of complex • Identifies the presence and duration of median nerve injury that is superimposed on a diagnostic tests accurately while accounting for chronic C7 radiculopathy based on electrodiagnostic study sensitivity and specificity Level 4 Correlates diagnostic testing with the • Discusses electrodiagnostic findings of and the likely prognosis of deep peroneal nerve clinical presentation axonotmesis that is contributing to foot weakness and paresthesia • Explains the reason to defer MRI testing in a patient with acute radicular symptoms who does not demonstrate red flags Anticipates and accounts for subtle nuances of • Understands that endocrine lab work to assess for secondary adrenal insufficiency from interpreting diagnostic tests frequent steroid injections may be influenced by patient's comorbidities and alternative medications. • Evaluates MRI findings for central, lateral recess, and foramina stenosis • Educates others on the utility of laboratory work, bone scans, x-rays, and sympathetic **Level 5** Acts as a role model and teaches the blocks in the workup and management of complex regional pain syndrome effective use of multimodal diagnostic studies efficiently to identify and treat multiple complex pain conditions

Pursues knowledge of new and emerging diagnostic tests	 Actively participates in relevant scientific meetings to learn new and emerging diagnostic tests Leads research into the pharmacogenomics of specific pain disorders
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Multisource feedback Portfolio Reflection Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 The American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA). Pain Medicine Examination. https://theaba.org/pdfs/PM Content Outline.pdf. 2021. International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). ISAP Curriculum Outline on Pain for Medicine. https://www.iasp-pain.org/education/curricula/iasp-curriculum-outline-on-pain-for-medicine/. 2021.

Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (QI)	
Overall Intent: To engage in the analysis and management of patient safety events, including relevant communication with patients,	
families, and health care professionals; to cond Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of common events that impact patient safety	Identifies patient misidentification or medication errors as common patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Explains how to report errors in own health system
Demonstrates knowledge of basic quality improvement methodologies and metrics	Describes fishbone tool
Level 2 Identifies system factors that lead to	Identifies the time out protocol is not being followed
patient safety events	Identifies that a consent form does not include laterality
Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems (simulated or actual)	Reports lack of compliance with risk analysis for prescriptions of opioid medications
Describes departmental quality improvement initiatives	Summarizes protocols for safe opioid prescription practices
Level 3 Participates in analysis of patient safety events (simulated or actual)	Assimilates patient data, evaluates the root cause, and presents the findings of a patient safety event
Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and their families (simulated or actual)	Through simulation or role play, communicates with patients/families about a medication administration error
Participates in department quality improvement initiatives	Participates in development of a departmental policy on safe opioid prescribing
Level 4 Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies (simulated or actual)	Collaborates with a team to conduct a root cause analysis of a patient safety event
Discloses patient safety events to patients and their families (simulated or actual)	Discusses with patient (family) an inadvertent dural puncture during an epidural steroid injection

Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project	Initiates and develops a fellow-level quality improvement project on increasing efficiency of patient flow through the clinic
Level 5 Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety events	Assumes a leadership role at the departmental or institutional level for patient safety
Role models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events	Conducts a simulation for disclosing patient safety events
Creates, implements, and assesses quality improvement initiatives at the institutional level or above	Initiates and completes a QI project to improve disclosure of serious adverse events to patients and families and shares results with stakeholders
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation E-module multiple choice tests Multisource feedback Portfolio Reflection Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Anesthesia Quality Institute. https://www.aqihq.org/. 2021. Institute of Healthcare Improvement. http://www.ihi.org/Pages/default.aspx. 2021.

Systems-Based Practice 2: System Navigation for Patient-Centered Care			
	Overall Intent: To effectively navigate the health care system, including the interdisciplinary team and other care providers, to adapt care to		
	a specific patient population to ensure high-quality patient outcomes		
Milestones	Examples		
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of care coordination	 Identifies the members of the interprofessional/interdisciplinary team, including other specialty physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, nurses, consultants, social workers, and case managers, and describes their roles, but is not yet routinely using team members or accessing all available resources 		
Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions of care and hand-offs	Lists the essential components of a note that allow for transition of care to a referring provider		
	Lists key pieces of recommendation that should be included for management of diabetic neuropathy		
Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and inequities	Identifies components of social determinants of health and how they impact the delivery of patient care		
	Identifies that gender, race, and other components of patient identify impact patient's experience of pain management		
Level 2 Coordinates care of patients in routine clinical situations effectively using the roles of interprofessional team members	 Coordinates with interprofessional team members for routine cases, but requires supervision to ensure all necessary referrals and testing are made Coordinates pain psychology evaluation for spinal cord stimulator trial but needs reminder to get updated MRI imaging for thoracic spine 		
Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in routine clinical situations	 Performs a routine case sign-out but still needs direct supervision to identify and appropriately triage cases or calls (priority versus non-priority case or call) and anticipatory guidance Gives appropriate sign out for epidurals but does not prioritize sign out for epidural that resulted in dural puncture 		
Identifies specific population and community health needs and inequities for the local population	 Knows which patients are at high risk for specific health outcomes related to health literacy concerns, cost of testing or therapy, socioeconomic status, religion, culture, and family support Differentiates that psychological services are different between Medicaid versus private insurance for local area 		
Level 3 Coordinates care of patients in complex clinical situations effectively collaborating with members of the interprofessional team	 Develops a comprehensive treatment plan in coordination with consultants from other medical specialties, physical therapists, pain psychologists Synthesizes recommendations from a multidisciplinary conference 		
members of the interprofessional team	• Synthesizes recommendations from a multidisciplinary conference		

Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in complex clinical situations	Coordinates a complex discharge from clinic to emergency room for development of new neurological signs after neuraxial procedure and coordinates emergent care/imaging and evaluation
Uses local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community while minimizing health care inequities	Identifies a discount pharmacy close to where the patient lives
Level 4 Role models effective coordination of patient-centered care among different professions and specialties	Role models and educates students and more junior team members regarding the engagement of appropriate interprofessional team members, as needed for each patient and/or case, and ensures the necessary resources have been arranged for multidisciplinary pain management
Role models and advocates for safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems and settings	 Models efficient hand-offs to the surgical teams or inpatient teams, and coordinates and prioritizes consultant input for a specific diagnosis to ensure the patient gets appropriate follow-up Directs patient to rheumatological consultant given appropriate presentation for inflammatory arthritis and integrate recommendations for disease modifying therapy into care
Participates in changing and adapting practice to provide for the needs of specific populations	Identifies patient populations at high risk for poor health care outcomes due to health disparities and inequities, and implements strategies to improve care
Level 5 Analyzes the process of care coordination and leads in the design and implementation of improvements	Works with hospital or ambulatory site team members or leadership to analyze care coordination in that setting, and takes a leadership role in designing and implementing changes to improve the care coordination
Improves quality of transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes	Develops a validated tool to improve safe and effective transitions of care
Leads innovations and advocacy in partnership with populations and communities experiencing health care inequities	Designs a social determinants of health curriculum to help others learn to identify local resources and barriers to care
Assessment Models or Tools	 Case management quality metrics and goals mined from EHR Chart review Direct observation (including discussion during rounds, case workup and case presentations)

	 Lectures/workshops on social determinants of health or population health with identification of local resources Multisource feedback Review of sign-out tools, use and review of checklist
	The view of sign out tools, use and review of officialist
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Population Health Training.
	https://www.cdc.gov/pophealthtraining/whatis.html. 2021.
	• Skochelak SE, Hammoud MM, Lomis KD, et al. AMA Education Consortium: Health
	Systems Science. 2nd ed. Elsevier; 2021. ISBN:9780323694629.

Systems-based Practice 3: Physician Role in Health Care Systems	
Overall Intent: To understand the physician's role in the complex health care system and how to optimize the system to improve patient care	
and the health system's performance Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Describes basic health payment systems (e.g., government, private, public, uninsured care) and practice models	 Identifies appropriate patients for outpatient clinic, procedural suites, operating rooms, and inpatient perioperative spaces Names systems and providers involved in pain management care and delivery, including government pay models and private insurances
Identifies basic knowledge domains for effective transition to practice (e.g., information technology, legal, billing and coding, financial, personnel)	 Recognizes that Medicare, Medicaid, the VA, and commercial third-party payors are different payment systems Recognizes role of billing/coding in payment structure for pain management
Level 2 Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts delivery of pain management	Understands how improving patient satisfaction improves patient adherence and remuneration to the health system; beginning to think through clinical redesign to improve quality and modifying personal practice to enhance outcomes
Delivers care with consideration of each patient's payment model (e.g., insurance type)	Applies knowledge of health plan features, including formularies and network requirements in patient care situations, including coverage of types of MRIs or procedure when making recommendation and plan
Demonstrates use of information technology required for medical practice (e.g., electronic health record, documentation required for billing and coding)	Uses hospital EHR to write note meeting basic requirements for billing and coverage Documents minimum requirements to get MRI or procedure covered for patient)
Level 3 Practices pain management in the context of a complex health care system to deliver effective care	Understands potential problems with delays in therapy and/or access to other services embedded within the comprehensive treatment plan
Engages with patients in shared decision making, informed by each patient's payment model	 Uses shared decision making and adapts the choice of the most cost-effective testing depending on the relevant clinical needs Discusses with patient potential issues of coverage with certain modalities of treatment and options for patients to move forward
Describes core administrative knowledge needed for transition to practice (e.g., contract	Understands state law concerning requirements for medical practice and consequences for noncompliance

negotiations, malpractice insurance, government regulation, compliance)	
Level 4 Navigates the various components of the complex health care system to provide efficient and effective patient care and transitions of care	Works collaboratively with other services to identify patient assistance resources and advocates within the healthcare system for pain patients and education of services involved
Advocates for patient care needs (e.g., community resources, patient assistance resources) with consideration of the limitations of each patient's payment model	Advocates for alternative community resources
Analyzes individual practice patterns and professional requirements in preparation for independent practice	Recognizes the need in practice to provide appropriate resources to evaluate the variable presentations and conditions of pain patients
Level 5 Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient, and effective patient care	Works with organization leadership to develop pathways for timely care delivery for pain patients
Participates in health policy advocacy activities	Develops processes for appropriate and safe opioid prescribing for clinical services
Educates others to prepare them for transition to practice	Discusses experiences within different models of practice
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation Medical record (Chart) review Patient satisfaction data
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 AHRQ. Measuring the Quality of Physician Care. https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/talkingquality/create/physician/challenges.html. 2021. Dzau VJ, McClellan MB, McGinnis JM, et al. Vital directions for health and health care: Priorities from a National Academy of Medicine initiative. <i>JAMA</i>. 2017;317(14):1461-1470. https://mam.edu/vital-directions-for-health-health-care-priorities-from-a-national-academy-of-medicine-initiative/. 2021. The Kaiser Family Foundation. Health Reform. https://www.kff.org/topic/health-reform/. 2021.

Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates how to access and use available evidence	 Identifies the clinical problem and obtains the appropriate evidence-based guideline for the patient Identifies and uses anticoagulation guidelines before a procedure
Level 2 Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patients' preferences, to the care of straightforward patients	Asks the appropriate questions of the patient in order to elicit preferences for management/treatment of low back pain
Level 3 Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patients' preferences, to the care of complex patients	Obtains and applies evidence in the care of patients with advanced complex regional pain syndromes
Level 4 Critically appraises and applies evidence even in the face of uncertainty and conflicting evidence to guide care, tailored to the individual patient	 Assesses the primary literature to answer a very specific clinical question for epidural steroids for treatment of lumbar radicular pain with spinal stenosis Assesses the primary literature to address a unique patient when the evidence is unclear or emerging Is aware of novel therapeutic techniques or new evidence that challenges current guidelines and demonstrates the ability to appropriately apply this information
Level 5 Coaches others to critically appraise and apply evidence for complex patients, and/or participates in the development of guidelines	Formally teaches others how to find and apply best practice or develops, independently or as a part of a team, thoughtful clinical guidelines
Assessment Models or Tools	 Case based assessment Direct observation Journal Club Oral or written examination Research portfolio
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 National Institutes of Health. Write Your Application. https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm. 2021. U.S. National Library of Medicine. PubMed Online Training. https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/cover.html. 2021. Institutional IRB guidelines Various journal submission guidelines

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth		
Overall Intent: To seek clinical performance information with the intent to improve care; to reflect on all domains of practice, personal		
interactions, and behaviors, and their impact on colleagues and patients (reflective mindfulness); to develop clear objectives and goals for		
improvement in some form of a learning plan		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Accepts responsibility for personal and professional development by establishing goals	Completes self-reflective goals prior to meeting with the program director	
Identifies the factors that contribute to performance gaps	 Identifies gaps in knowledge of mechanisms of drug action of gabapentin and pregabalin Identifies that fatigue, stressors, mental health/health problems, and perceived life-work imbalance contribute to performance deficits 	
Actively seeks opportunities to improve knowledge and skills	 Asks for feedback from patients, families, and patient care team members Uses institutional provided resources to balance personal/professional commitments and obligations 	
Level 2 Demonstrates openness to performance data (feedback and other input) to form goals	Integrates feedback to adjust medication management of patients with chronic renal disease	
Analyzes and acknowledges the factors that contribute to performance gaps	Assesses time management skills and how they impact clinical efficiency	
Designs and implements a learning plan, with prompting	When prompted, develops individual education plan to improve their evaluation of patients with a history of chronic liver disease	
Level 3 Seeks performance data episodically, with adaptability and humility	Obtains chart data to determine prescription errors in own patients	
Institutes behavioral change(s) to improve performance	 Completes focused literature review before selecting an appropriate procedure for a rare condition Maintains good sleep hygiene 	
Independently creates and implements a learning plan	Implements strategies that improve behaviors such as trust, interdependence, genuineness, empathy, risk, team building, and success	
Level 4 Intentionally seeks performance data consistently, with adaptability and humility	Obtains a quarterly chart audit to determine controlled substance agreement is up-to-date and signed for own patients	
Considers alternatives to improve performance	 After complication in radiofrequency denervation, alters technique Attempts a different approach to fluoroscopic imaging 	

Integrates performance data to adapt the learning plan	Based on audit of incidence of allergic reaction to contrast, identifies knowledge gaps and reads current practice guidelines to improve care
Level 5 Role models consistently seeking performance data, with adaptability and humility	Shares own performance gaps and adapted plan with other learners
Models reflective practice	Identifies and shares strategies to improve spinal cord stimulator placement based on previously received feedback
Facilitates the design and implementation of learning plans for others	Assists more junior learners in developing their individualized learning plans
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Review of learning plan
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Burke AE, Benson B, Englander R, Carraccio C, Hicks PJ. Domain of competence: Practice-based learning and improvement. Acad Pediatr. 2014;14(2 Suppl):S38-S54. https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(13)00333-1/fulltext. 2021. Hojat M, Veloski JJ, Gonnella JS. Measurement and correlates of physicians' lifelong learning. Acad Med. 2009;84(8):1066-74. https://insights.ovid.com/crossref?an=00001888-200908000-00021. 2021. Lockspeiser TM, Schmitter PA, Lane JL, Hanson JL, Rosenberg AA, Park YS. Assessing residents' written learning goals and goal writing skill: Validity evidence for the learning goal scoring rubric. Acad Med. 2013;88(10):1558-1563. https://insights.ovid.com/article/00001888-201310000-00039. 2021. Reed S, Lockspeiser TM, Burke A, et al. Practical suggestions for the creation and use of meaningful learning goals in graduate medical education. Academic Pediatrics. 2016;16(1):20-24. https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(15)00333-2/pdf. 2021.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 3: Participates in Scholarship (Foundation, Investigation, Analysis, and Dissemination)

Overall Intent: To actively engage in scholarly activity, dissemination of knowledge, manuscript review, and/or publications

Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Identifies a topic for a scholarly project and a mentor	 Identifies the role of exercise after epidural steroid injection as a topic of interest Approaches mentor with request for collaboration
Communicates and/or disseminates knowledge in the field of pain medicine during	 Selects a topic for grand round presentation Cites papers that demonstrate efficacy of epidural steroid injection in lumbar radiculopathy
straightforward clinical care Level 2 Develops a research question for the scholarly project	To determine patients' compliance with recommendations for exercise after epidural steroid injection Writes learning objectives for grand rounds presentation
Communicates scientific literature as applied to more complex clinical situations	Discusses controversies of epidural steroid injection in chronic lumbar stenosis
Level 3 Develops a research plan and timeline for completion of the scholarly project with one's mentor	 Prepares Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission for exemption (such as expedite approval for retrospective chart review or similar), type of data and timeline for data collection, statistical plan for data analysis with guidance of mentor Does literature review and outlines a book chapter
Presents at journal club, quality improvement meetings, or clinical conferences, and/or effectively describes and discusses one's own scholarly work or research	Presents at grand rounds controversies in the use of epidural stenosis for treatment of spinal stenosis
Level 4 Completes a scholarly project	Does data collection, data analysis and prepares manuscript of the patients' compliance with exercise after epidural steroid injection
Presents scholarly project at local or regional meetings, and/or submits an abstract summarizing the scholarly work to regional/state/ national meetings, and/or publishes non-peer- reviewed manuscript(s) (reviews, book chapters)	Poster presentation with the study results at regional meeting
Level 5 Leads or provides mentorship for a scholarly project	Publishes paper in peer review journal about patients' compliance with exercise after epidural steroid injection

Presents scholarly work at national and international meetings or publishes peer-reviewed manuscript(s) containing scholarly work (clinical practice, quality improvement, patient safety, education, or research) or obtains research funding	Facilitates a workshop on controversies of epidural steroids at national meeting
Assessment Models or Tools	 Documentation of research processes or outcomes Peer-reviewed scholarly work Presentation evaluation Research mentor and research staff member evaluation Review of research progress
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Textbooks Workshops Online resources Mentorship Human Subject Protection Certification Course (e.g., CITI) Local IRB

Professionalism 1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles		
Overall Intent: To recognize and address lapses in ethical and professional behavior, demonstrates ethical and professional behaviors, and		
and professional dilemmas		
Examples		
Recognizes the impact of fatigue on clinical performance		
Recognizes that personal "bias" may interfere with professionalism		
Uses institutional reporting system for medical errors		
Articulates how the principle of "do no harm" applies to a patient who may not need an intervention even though the learning opportunity exists		
 Discusses the basic principles underlying ethics (e.g., beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, autonomy) and professionalism (e.g., professional values and commitments), and how they apply in various situations (e.g., informed consent process) Maintains patient confidentiality in public situations 		
Respectfully approaches a learner who is late to clinic about the importance of being on		
time		
Notifies appropriate supervisor in a timely way when unable to fulfill a responsibility		
Identifies and applies ethical principles involved in informed consent when the learner is unclear of all the risks		
Identifies surrogate for impaired patients		
Appropriately responds to a family member, following a post-procedure complication		
After noticing a colleague's inappropriate social media post, reviews policies related to posting of content and seeks guidance		
Offers treatment options for a terminally ill patient, free of bias, while recognizing own limitations, and consistently honoring the patient's choice		
Actively solicits the perspectives of others		
Models respect for patients and promotes the same from colleagues, when a patient has been waiting an excessively long time for their appointment		

Implements recommendations to resolve complex interpersonal situations	Recognizes and uses ethics consults, literature, risk-management/legal counsel to resolve ethical dilemmas
Recognizes and utilizes resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas	Recognizes and manages situations of medical futility
Level 5 Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations	Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations and creates a performance improvement plan to prevent recurrence
Participates in committees that works to promote ethical behavior	• Identifies and seeks to address system-wide factors or barriers to promoting a culture of ethical behavior through participation in a work group, committee, or taskforce, such as ethics committee or an ethics subcommittee, risk management committee, root cause analysis review, patient safety or satisfaction committee, professionalism work group, IRB, or learner grievance committee
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Global evaluation Multisource feedback Oral or written self-reflection Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 American Sociological Association (ASA). ASA Code of Ethics. https://www.asanet.org/code-ethics. 2021. American Medical Association. Ethics. https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ama-code-medical-ethics. 2021. Bynny RL, Paauw DS, Papadakis MA, Pfeil S. Medical Professionalism Best Practices: Professionalism Best Practices: Professionalism in the Modern Era. Aurora, CO: Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society; 2017. https://alphaomegaalpha.org/pdfs/Monograph2018.pdf. 2021. Domen RE, Johnson K, Conran RM, et al. Professionalism in pathology: A case-based approach as a potential education tool. https://meridian.allenpress.com/aplm/article/141/2/215/132523/Professionalism-in-pathology-A-Case-Based-Approach. 2021. Levinson W, Ginsburg S, Hafferty FW, Lucey CR. https://meridian.allenpress.com/aplm/article/141/2/215/132523/Professionalism-in-pathology-A-Case-Based-Approach. 2021. Levinson W, Ginsburg S, Hafferty FW, Lucey CR. https://meridian.allenpress.com/aplm/article/141/2/215/132523/Professionalism-in-pathology-A-Case-Based-Approach. 2021. Levinson W, Ginsburg S, Hafferty FW, Lucey CR. https://meridian.allenpress.com/aplm/article/141/2/215/132523/Professionalism-in-pathology-A-Case-Based-Approach

Professionalism 2: Accountability/Conscientiousness Overall Intent: To take responsibility for one's own actions and the impact on patients and other members of the health care team		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Responds promptly to requests or reminders to complete tasks	 Responds promptly to reminders from program administrator to complete work hour logs Attends conferences and other educational activities on time 	
Takes responsibility for failure to complete tasks	Apologizes to team member(s) for unprofessional behavior without prompting	
Level 2 Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Completes administrative tasks, documents safety modules, procedure review, and licensing requirements by specified due date	
Recognizes situations that may impact one's own ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Before going out of town, completes tasks in anticipation of lack of computer access while traveling	
Level 3 Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in routine situations	 Notifies attending of multiple competing demands on call, appropriately triages tasks, and asks for assistance from other residents or faculty members as needed Appropriately notifies residents and fellows on day service about overnight call events during transition of care or hand-off to avoid patient safety issues and compromise of patient care 	
Takes responsibility for tasks not completed in a timely manner and identifies strategies to prevent recurrence	 Apologizes to team member(s) for unprofessional behavior without prompting, offers restitution if possible and through self-reflection identifies root cause of failure Follows through with tasks, closes the loop when gaps were encountered 	
Level 4 Prioritizes tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in complex or stressful situations	Takes responsibility for inadvertently omitting key patient information during hand-off and professionally discusses with the patient, family, and interprofessional team	
Proactively implements strategies to ensure that the needs of patients, teams, and systems are met	Follows up with a patient who had a complicated epidural placement after being discharged from the hospital to evaluate for post-dural puncture headache	
Level 5 Designs and implements an institutional systems approach to ensure timely task	Coordinates a multidisciplinary team to facilitate intensive care unit (ICU) transfers throughout the institution	
completion and shared responsibility	 Leads multidisciplinary team in post-procedure related root cause analysis to improve system practices around infection control 	
Assessment Models or Tools	Compliance with deadlines and timelines	
	Direct observation	
	Global evaluations	

	 Multisource feedback Self-evaluations and reflective tools Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 ASA. ASA Code of Ethics. https://www.asanet.org/code-ethics. 2021. Code of conduct from fellow/resident institutional manual Expectations of residency program regarding accountability and professionalism

Professionalism 3: Well-Being Overall Intent: To identify, use, manage, improve, and seek help for personal and professional well-being for self and others **Milestones Examples Level 1** Recognizes the importance of • Acknowledges own response to patient's fatal diagnosis addressing personal and professional well-being • Is receptive to feedback on missed emotional cues after patient evaluation • Communicates impact of family-related concerns, lack of sleep, or substance use on being personal well-being • Discusses well-being concerns as they might affect performance • Identifies institutionally sponsored wellness programs to promote individual well-being Level 2 Lists available resources for addressing personal and professional well-being • Identifies faculty members and facilities available to support well-being Level 3 With assistance, proposes a plan to • With the multidisciplinary team, develops a reflective response to deal with personal promote personal and professional well-being impact of difficult patient encounters and disclosures • Participates in routine well-being programs offered by graduate medicate education • Independently identifies ways to manage personal stress Level 4 Independently develops a plan to promote personal and professional well-being Regularly engages in a personalized physical or meditative exercise regimen **Level 5** Serves as a well-being coach and leads • Assists in organizational efforts to address clinician well-being after patient a well-being initiative diagnosis/prognosis/death • Works with multidisciplinary team to develop a feedback framework for learners around family meetings • Establishes a mindfulness program open to all employees Assessment Models or Tools Direct observation • Group interview or discussions for team activities Individual interview Institutional online training modules • Self-assessment and personal learning plan **Curriculum Mapping** • This subcompetency is not intended to evaluate a fellow's well-being, but to ensure each Notes or Resources fellow has the fundamental knowledge of factors that impact well-being, the mechanisms by which those factors impact well-being, and available resources and tools to improve well-being. • ACGME. "Well-Being Tools and Resources." https://dl.acgme.org/pages/well-being-toolsresources, 2021. • Hicks PJ, Schumacher D, Guralnick S, Carraccio C, Burke AE. Domain of competence: Personal and professional development. Acad Pediatr. 2014;14(2 Suppl):S80-97. https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1876-2859(13)00332-X. 2021.

• Local resources, including Employee Assistance Plan (EAP)

Professionalism 4: Patient-Centered Care/Cultural Competency Overall Intent: To attend to the comfort and dignity of all patients regardless of impairment or disability, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic	
status, or age Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Recognizes the need to respect the dignity of patients of all backgrounds	Understands that all patients should be treated with respect, with due attention to their comfort and dignity, regardless of disability or pain behaviors
Level 2 Demonstrates specific elements of verbal and physical communication that reflect respect for patients	 Sits at the level of a wheelchair user or pediatric patient for conversation Talks directly to a person with disability, not through a caregiver or companion Talks directly to a patient requiring interpreter services, with pauses in between a few sentences for accurate interpretation and allowing adequate time for patients to respond Uses language that emphasizes the individual person and not just the disability when referring to the patient ("a person with paraplegia", not "a paraplegic") Identifies self and makes the patient aware verbally before making physical contact with a patient who is blind Communicates respectfully with an individual with a substance use or opioid use disorder
Level 3 Recognizes the impact of a patient's background on delivery of care	 Takes care to avoid causing additional discomfort to the patient while testing active range of motion of an inflamed knee joint Understands the need to adapt certain physical examination maneuvers for a patient who is unable to lay supine due to underlying respiratory dysfunction
Level 4 Integrates a patient's background into the care one provides	 Communicates realistic goals from the proposed treatment plan based on socioeconomic or cultural background Prints out home therapy exercises for a patient who does not have internet access or cannot afford co-payments to attend therapy sessions
Level 5 Serves as a role model and resource for others by coaching them in behaviors and actions that optimize the comfort, dignity, and respect of patients of all backgrounds	 Is recognized as a role model for demonstrating pain etiquette in clinical interactions and selected to teach a workshop on optimal techniques to examine patients with different painful conditions
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Global evaluation Mentor and program director observations Multisource feedback Oral or written self-reflection Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	

Notes or Resources	• United Spinal Association. Disability Etiquette: Tips on Interacting with People with
	Disabilities. New York, NY: United Spinal Association.
	https://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/DisabilityEtiquette.pdf. 2021.
	Sabharwal S. Assessment of competency in positioning and movement of physically
	disabled patients. Acad Med. 2000;75(5):525.
	https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2000/05000/Assessment_of_Compet
	ency in Positioning and.47.aspx. 2021.
	• Sabharwal S. Objective assessment and structured teaching of disability etiquette. <i>Acad</i>
	<i>Med.</i> 2001;76(5):509.
	https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2001/05000/Objective Assessment a
	nd Structured Teaching of.38.aspx#pdf-link. 2021.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 1: Patient- and Family-Centered Communication Overall Intent: To deliberately use language and behaviors to form constructive relationships with the nations and others (e.g., family and	
Overall Intent: To deliberately use language and behaviors to form constructive relationships with the patient and others (e.g., family and caregivers), identify communication barriers including self-reflection on personal biases, and minimize them in the doctor-patient	
relationships; to organize and lead communication around shared decision making	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Uses language and non-verbal behavior	Self-monitors tone and non-verbal responses
to demonstrate respect and establish rapport	Asks questions to invite patient/family/caregiver participation
	During a clinic visit, ensures that all participants can see and hear one another
Identifies common barriers to effective	Uses interpretation services and picture boards as needed
communication (e.g., language, disability)	Begins to tailor language to the needs of the patient and family
(vig., ranguage, areaumy)	a Dogino to tanor language to the needs of the patient and lanning
Accurately communicates one's own role within the health care system	Introduces themselves and their role as a fellow to patients/families/caregivers
Level 2 Establishes a therapeutic relationship in	• Engages in active listening, pays attention to affect, and asks questions that explore the
straightforward encounters using active listening	optimal approach to daily tasks
and clear language	
Identifies complex barriers to effective	Avoids medical jargon and communicates at a level understandable to patient and family
communication (e.g., health literacy, cultural	members, using interpretation services as needed
differences)	
Organizes and initiates communication with a	a Effectively leads notion!/family/coregiver discussions in straightforward coses with
Organizes and initiates communication with a patient/patient's family by clarifying expectations	Effectively leads patient/family/caregiver discussions in straightforward cases, with
and verifying understanding of the clinical	attending guidance
situation	
Level 3 Establishes a therapeutic relationship in	Successfully establishes rapport with challenging patients
challenging patient encounters	Maintains and repairs a therapeutic relationship through times of conflict
Changing panem encountere	Thaintaine and repaire a merapeate relationering among it initiates of commet
When prompted, reflects on personal biases	During feedback, recognizes implicit bias in communication and identifies ways to mitigate
while attempting to minimize communication	communication barriers
barriers	
With guidance, uses shared decision making to	Provides written concise and tailored post clinic visit information to meet the needs of
align a patient's/patient's family's values, goals,	patient/family/caregivers
and preferences with treatment options to make	Elicits what is most important to the patient/family/caregivers
a personalized care plan	Acknowledges uncertainty in medical complexity and prognosis

Level 4 Easily establishes therapeutic relationships, with attention to a patient's/patient's family's concerns and context, regardless of complexity	Patient and family verbalize their trust in the fellow; can explain that what the family wants for the patient may not be what is best for the patient
Independently recognizes personal biases while proactively minimizing communication barriers	 Recognizes the fellow did not ask others in the room about their relationship to the patient Anticipates and proactively addresses communication barriers, acknowledging past experiences and preferences of patients/families/caregivers Recognition of own implicit bias
Independently uses shared decision making to align a patient's/patient's family's values, goals, and preferences with treatment options to make a personalized care plan	Engages in shared decision making process with the patient and family, including a recommended plan to align patient's unique goals with treatment options; e.g., plan to return to work
Level 5 Mentors others in developing positive therapeutic relationships	Role models and supports colleagues in self-awareness and reflection to improve therapeutic relationships with patients
Role models self-awareness practice while teaching a contextual approach to minimize communication barriers	Is an example to others of leading shared decision making with clear recommendations to patients and families even in more complex clinical situations
Role models shared decision-making in patient/family communication, including in situations with a high degree of uncertainty/conflict	
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Kalamazoo Essential Elements Communication Checklist (Adapted)
	Multisource feedback Out a second in a hading a self mellion as a few floation assessment in a hading a self mellion as a few floation.
	 Self-assessment including self-reflection exercises Skills needed to Set the state, Elicit information, Give information, Understand the patient,
	and End the encounter (SEGUE)
	Standardized patients or structured case discussions
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Laidlaw A, Hart J. Communication skills: An essential component of medical curricula. Part I: Assessment of clinical communication: AMEE Guide No. 51. <i>Med Teach</i>. 2011;33(1):6-8.

- https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.3109/0142159X.2011.531170?journalCode=imte2 0. 2021.
- Makoul G. Essential elements of communication in medical encounters: the Kalamazoo consensus statement. *Acad Med*. 2001;76(4):390-393.
 https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2001/04000/Essential Elements of Communication in Medical.21.aspx. 2021.
- Makoul G. The SEGUE Framework for teaching and assessing communication skills.
 Patient Educ Couns. 2001;45(1):23-34.
 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0738399101001367?via%3Dihub.
 2021.
- Symons AB, Swanson A, McGuigan D, Orrange S, Akl EA. A tool for self-assessment of communication skills and professionalism in residents. *BMC Med Educ*. 2009; 9:1. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2631014/. 2021.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 2: Interprofessional and Team Communication

Overall Intent: To effectively communicate with the health care team, including consultants, in both straightforward and complex situations

Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Respectfully requests or receives consultations	Respectfully consults a spine surgeon for a patient with myelopathic signs and symptoms
Uses language that values all members of the health care team	Receives an acute pain consult request, asks clarifying questions politely, and expresses appreciation for the motivation behind the consult request
Respectfully receives feedback from health care team members	Acknowledges the contribution of each member of the patient care team to the patient
Level 2 Clearly, concisely, and promptly requests or responds to a consultation	Communicates pain regimen recommendations with the attending physician for an inpatient consultation concisely in a timely manner
Communicates information effectively with all health care team members	Effectively communicates pertinent concerns for performance of complex interventional pain procedures, such as neuromodulation, vertebral augmentation, to the operating room team and attending anesthesiologist
Solicits feedback on performance as a member of the health care team	Conducts post-procedural follow-up communication and discusses patient complications with supervising attending while reflecting on personal role in the patient's care
Level 3 Uses closed-loop communication to verify understanding	Recognizes a procedural adverse event and ensures team members understand their roles in care
Adapts communication style to fit team needs	When receiving treatment recommendations from an attending physician, repeats back the plan to ensure understanding
Communicates concerns and provides feedback to peers and learners	Provides constructive feedback to a medical student during history and physical examination
Level 4 Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team to optimize patient care	Collaborates with surgical colleagues to plan for post-operative analgesia in a patient on buprenorphine
Manages communication among team members in complex patient situations	Explains rationale for changes in medications for patients with a complex medical history involving polypharmacy

Communicates constructive feedback to faculty members and supervisors	 Alerts to a breech in sterility for spinal cord stimulator placement by a faculty member Alerts faculty of possible wrong side/site injection Cautions faculty member about an imminent prescription medication error
Level 5 Role models flexible communication strategies that value input from all health care team members, resolving conflict when needed	Mediates a conflict resolution between different members of the health care team
Coaches others in managing communication among team members in complex patient situations	Leads an interdisciplinary care conference on a complex pain patient
Facilitates regular health care team-based feedback in complex situations	Leading an adverse event analysis
Assessment Models or Tools	 Assessment of root cause analysis presentation Direct observation Global assessment Medical record (chart) audit Multisource feedback Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 AHRQ. Curriculum Materials. https://www.ahrq.gov/teamstepps/curriculum-materials.html. Tait AR, Teig MK, Voepel-Lewis T. Informed consent for anesthesia: A review of practice and startegies for optimizing the consent process. Can J Anaesth. 2014;61(9):832-842. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24898765/. 2021. Dehon E, Simpson K, Fowler D, Jones A. Development of the faculty 360. https://www.boo.gov/24898765/. 2021. Green M, Parrott T, Cook G., Improving your communication skills. BMJ. 2012;344:e357. https://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.e357. 2021. Henry SG, Holmboe ES, Frankel RM. Evidence-based competencies for improving communication skills in graduate medical education: A review with suggestions for implementation. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/0142159X.2013.769677. 2021. Roth CG, Eldin KW, Padmanabhan V, Freidman EM. Twelve tips for the introduction of emotional intelligence in medical education. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0142159X.2018.1481499. 2021.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 3: Communication within Health Care Systems Overall Intent: To effectively communicate using a variety of methods	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Accurately records information in the patient record while safeguarding patients' personal health information	Notes are accurate but may include extraneous information and can be disorganized
Demonstrates basic knowledge of appropriate channels of communication within the institution (e.g., pager callback, timely response to emails)	 Identifies institutional and departmental communication hierarchy for concerns and safety issues Understands how to contact members of the interprofessional team
Level 2 Demonstrates organized and complete diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record, including appropriate modifications when using copy-and-paste function	Notes are organized and accurate but may still contain some extraneous information Assists with documentation of interdisciplinary team meeting
Communicates through appropriate channels as required by institutional policy (e.g., patient safety reports)	 Recognizes that a communication breakdown has happened and respectfully brings the breakdown to the attention of the appropriate individual Reports a patient safety event
Level 3 Communicates clearly, concisely, timely, and in an organized written form, including anticipatory recommendations	Documentation is accurate, organized, concise, and includes anticipatory (if/then) guidance
Appropriately selects direct (e.g., telephone, in- person) and indirect (e.g., progress notes, text messages) forms of communication based on context	Immediately calls the attending to share results needing urgent attention
Level 4 Provides feedback to improve others' written communication	Provides feedback to colleagues who have insufficient documentation Talks directly to a colleague about breakdowns in communication to prevent recurrence
Produces written or verbal communication that serves as an example for others to follow	Participates in efforts to improve communication within the local environment
Level 5 Models feedback to improve others' written communication	Leads a task force established by the department to develop a plan to improve house staff hand-offs

Guides departmental or institutional	Teaches colleagues how to improve discharge summaries
communication around policies and procedures	
Assessment Models or Tools	Chart review for documented communications
	Multisource feedback
	Observation of sign-outs, observation of requests for consultations
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Bierman JA, Hufmeyer KK, Liss DT, Weaver AC, Heiman HL. Promoting responsible electronic documentation: Validity evidence for a checklist to assess progress notes in the electronic health record. <i>Teach Learn Med.</i> 2017;29(4):420-432. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10401334.2017.1303385. 2021. Haig KM, Sutton S, Whittington J. SBAR: A shared mental model for improving communication between clinicians. <i>Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.</i> 2006;32(3):167-175. https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250(06)32022-3/fulltext. 2021. Starmer AJ, Spector ND, Srivastava R, et al. I-pass, a mnemonic to standardize verbal handoffs. <i>Pediatrics</i>. 2012;129.2:201-204.

To help programs transition to the new version of the Milestones, the ACGME has mapped the original Milestones 1.0 to the new Milestones 2.0. Indicated below are where the subcompetencies are similar between versions. These are not exact matches but are areas that include similar elements. Not all subcompetencies map between versions. Inclusion or exclusion of any subcompetency does not change the educational value or impact on curriculum or assessment.

Milestones 1.0	Milestones 2.0
PC1: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate	PC1: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate
Information to Define Each Patient's Clinical Problem(s)	Information
(Neurological)	
PC2: – Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate	PC1: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate
Information to Define Each Patient's Clinical Problem(s)	Information
(Musculoskeletal)	
PC3: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate	PC2: Gathers and Synthesizes Essential and Accurate
Information to Define Each Patient's Clinical Problem(s)	Information - Psychiatric History
(Psychiatric)	
PC4: In Collaboration with the Patient, Develops and	PC3: Develops and Achieves a Comprehensive Pain Treatment
Achieves a Comprehensive Pain Treatment Plan for Each	Plan for Each Patient
Patient	
PC5: Demonstrates Skill in Performing and Interpreting	PC4: Demonstrates Skill in Performing Interventions
Diagnostic and Therapeutic Interventions	
PC6: Requests and Provides Consultative Care	PC5: Provides Consultative Care
MK1: Possesses Clinical Knowledge	MK1: Possesses Clinical Knowledge
MK2: Demonstrates Knowledge of Diagnostic Laboratory,	MK2: Diagnostic Testing and Imaging
Diagnostic Imaging and Neuro-diagnostic Testing and	
Procedures	
MK3: Participates in Scholarship (Foundation,	PBLI3: Participates in Scholarship
Investigation, Analysis, and Dissemination	
SBP1: Works Effectively Within an Interprofessional Team	ICS2: Interprofessional and Team Communication
SBP2: Recognizes System-based Error and Advocates for	SBP1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement
System Improvement	
SBP3: – Identifies Forces that Impact the Cost of Health	SBP3: Physician Role in Health Care Systems
Care, and Advocates for and Practices Cost-effective	
Care	
SBP4: Transitions Patients Effectively Within and Across	SBP2: System Navigation for Patient-Centered Care
Health Delivery System	

PBLI1: Monitors Practice with a Goal for Improvement	PBLI2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth
PBLI2: Learns and Improves via Performance Audit	PBLI2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth
PBLI3: Learns and Improves via Feedback	PBLI2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth
PBLI4: Learns and Improves at the Point of Care	PBLI1: Evidence-Based and Informed Practice
PROF1: Has Professional and Respectful Interactions with	PROF1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles
Patients, Caregivers, and Members of the	
Interprofessional Team	
PROF2: Accepts Responsibility and Follows through on	PROF2: Accountability/Conscientiousness
Tasks	
PROF3: Responds to each Patient's Unique	PROF4: Patient-Centered Care/Cultural Competency
Characteristics and Needs	
PROF4: Exhibits Integrity and Ethical Behavior in	PROF1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles
Professional Conduct	
	PROF3: Well-Being
ICS1: Communicates Effectively with Patients and	ICS1: Patient- and Family-Centered Communication
Caregivers	
ICS2: Communicates Effectively in Interprofessional	ICS2: Interprofessional and Team Communication
Teams	
ICS3: Appropriately Utilizes and Completion of Health	ICS3: Communication within Health Care Systems
Records	

Available Milestones Resources

Milestones 2.0: Assessment, Implementation, and Clinical Competency Committees Supplement, 2021 - https://meridian.allenpress.com/igme/issue/13/2s

Milestones Guidebooks: https://www.acgme.org/milestones/resources/

- Assessment Guidebook
- Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook
- Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook Executive Summaries
- Implementation Guidebook
- Milestones Guidebook

Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows: https://www.acgme.org/residents-and-fellows/ fellows/

- Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows
- Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows Presentation
- Milestones 2.0 Guide Sheet for Residents and Fellows

Milestones Research and Reports: https://www.acgme.org/milestones/research/

- Milestones National Report, updated each fall
- Milestones Predictive Probability Report, updated each fall
- Milestones Bibliography, updated twice each year

Developing Faculty Competencies in Assessment courses - https://www.acgme.org/meetings-and-educational-activities/courses-and-workshops/developing-faculty-competencies-in-assessment/

Assessment Tool: Direct Observation of Clinical Care (DOCC) - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/assessment

Assessment Tool: Teamwork Effectiveness Assessment Module (TEAM) - https://team.acgme.org/

Improving Assessment Using Direct Observation Toolkit - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/acgme-faculty-development-toolkit-improving-assessment-using-direct-observation

Remediation Toolkit - https://dl.acgme.org/courses/acgme-remediation-toolkit

Learn at ACGME has several courses on Assessment and Milestones - https://dl.acgme.org/