

An Evidence-Based process to define the National Family Medicine EPAs in Argentina: a work in progress.

Eduardo Durante¹; Mercedes Volpi¹; Maria de las Nieves Ganiele¹; Dolores Arceo¹; Roberta Ladenhemim¹; Marcelo Garcia Dieguez M^{1,2}; Clayton Dick³

Context

To facilitate the implementation of competencies in practice-based learning, ten Cate proposed the concept of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA). EPAs are recommended to guide undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum design. However, in Argentina, Family Medicine is the first specialty in defining a postgraduate EPA-based curriculum.

Objective:

To summarize the process of entrustable professional activities (EPA) development for Family Medicine residency in Argentina

Methods

We followed these evidence-based steps:

- 1- A scoping review was conducted by searching in Medline (OVID/PubMed), CINAHL, SCOPUS, PsycINFO, Web of Science, Google, and manual search
- 2- EPAs' quality analysis and information extraction: for this first quality analysis, the construction process and the detail level of the EPA description should be analyzed, as well as the geographical scope (local, national, regional, and international). A table detailing the source, country of origin, a leading institution in the production, development method, total number of EPA, and detailed description is assembled.
- 3- A simple translation is required since most of the found sets are published in English. Subsequently, an expert group of 5 to 10 members should consolidate a unified EPA list.
- 4- A Delphi process of three rounds (if necessary) will be run to reach the final list of EPAs. A group of 10 to 15 Family doctors at different stages of their care, and undergraduate and postgraduate teacher was included
- 5- As the consolidates list EPAs were defined they were linked to the competency framework of CanMeds
- 6- Full description of each EPA
- 7- EPA validation / Quality assessment of the developed EPA

Preliminary results

Since our process is in progress, we report the already executed steps:

- 1- The literature review found 10 relevant sets and papers. With 108 different EPA titles
 - 2- A table displaying the characteristics of step 2 was constructed.
 - 3- A simple translation to English was performed and the expert group consolidated (excluded duplicates and similarities) the results and a final version for the Delphi process was reached with 59 items.
 - 4- A National selection of FM experts were selected for the Delphi process. The initial round was already initiated, and the first replies have been received
 - 5- The competency framework of CanMeds was selected by the National Board of Family Medicine
- Steps 6 and 7 will be executed as soon as the previous ones are completed.

Conclusion

We implemented an original and innovative process for defining a set of EPAs for Family Medicine postgraduate training in Argentina. Though in progress, this evidence-based process will assure the quality of the EPA

¹ Insitituto Universitario Hospital Italiniao de Buenos Aires, ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

² Centre for the Study of Health Professions Education, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

³ Besroure Centre for Global Family Medicine, Canada