Entrustable Professional Activities to Assess Trainee Management of the Social Determinants of Health

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Purpose: FIU’s Neighborhood HELP teaches medical students and residents to address social determinants of health through inter-professional household visits. We define a set of entrustable professional activities (EPAs) by iteratively identifying activities, functions, competencies, and behaviors involved in addressing social determinants. These EPAs will be applied and adapted as programs face the challenge of assessing student and residents.

Methods: This process was adapted from Calaman et al., and based on our initial years of experience. We are identifying the key professional activities involved in household visits. This process involves defining activities, key functions, and competencies. We then identify developmental behaviors observed by supervising faculty, which correspond with each of the key functions. A reactor panel provides feedback for each EPA. The process is edited and repeated until there is agreement on the product.

Findings: We have identified four key professional activities associated with teaching household centered care including: “Collaborate as a member of an inter-professional team,” “Identify and help to manage the social determinants that impact the health of the members of a household,” “Perform behavioral counseling/motivational interviewing,” and “Supervise household-centered care visits.” For each of these activities, we describe the key functions, competencies, and related milestones for entrustment of indirect supervision. These four entrustable professional activities for population health at the household level are being developed based on a decade of experience with household centered care at Florida International University. These EPAs, along with their corresponding milestones, will be utilized in assessing student and resident participation in NHELP. Implementation of this assessment tool is expected to result in further refinements with faculty feedback. We will gather data on utility for communicating expectations to learners, and guiding their learning. Future efforts will report progress as students and residents enhance the skills of household centered care. Components of this may be replicated or adapted as programs face the challenge of assessing students and residents with EPAs.

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