

Cardiovascular Disease Milestones

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education



Second Revision: December 2019 First Revision: October 2014

Cardiovascular Disease Milestones

The Milestones are designed only for use in evaluation of fellows in the context of their participation in ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship programs. The Milestones provide a framework for the assessment of the development of the fellow in key dimensions of the elements of physician competency in a specialty or subspecialty. They neither represent the entirety of the dimensions of the six domains of physician competency, nor are they designed to be relevant in any other context.

Cardiovascular Disease Milestones

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American Board of Internal Medicine

American College of Cardiology

ACGME Review Committee for Internal Medicine

Understanding Milestone Levels and Reporting

This document presents the Milestones, which programs use in a semi-annual review of fellow performance, and then report to the ACGME. Milestones are knowledge, skills, attitudes, and other attributes for each of the ACGME Competencies organized in a developmental framework. The narrative descriptions are targets for fellow performance throughout their educational program.

Milestones are arranged into levels. Tracking from Level 1 to Level 5 is synonymous with moving from novice to expert fellow in the specialty or subspecialty. For each reporting period, the Clinical Competency Committee will review the completed evaluations to select the milestone levels that best describe each learner's current performance, abilities, and attributes for each subcompetency.

These levels *do not* correspond with post-graduate year of education. Depending on previous experience, a junior fellow may achieve higher levels early in his/her educational program just as a senior fellow may be at a lower level later in his/her educational program. There is no predetermined timing for a fellow to attain any particular level. Fellows may also regress in achievement of their milestones. This may happen for many reasons, such as over scoring in a previous review, a disjointed experience in a particular procedure, or a significant act by the fellow.

Selection of a level implies the fellow substantially demonstrates the milestones in that level, as well as those in lower levels (see the diagram on page vi).

Additional Notes

Level 4 is designed as a graduation *goal* but *does not* represent a graduation *requirement*. Making decisions about readiness for graduation and unsupervised practice is the purview of the program director. Furthermore, Milestones 2.0 include revisions and changes that preclude using Milestones as a sole assessment in high-stakes decisions (i.e., determination of eligibility for certification or credentialing). Level 5 is designed to represent an expert fellow whose achievements in a subcompetency are greater than the expectation. Milestones are primarily designed for formative, developmental purposes to support continuous quality improvement for individual learners, education programs, and the specialty. The ACGME and its partners will continue to evaluate and perform research on the Milestones to assess their impact and value.

Examples are provided for some milestones within this document. Please note: the examples are not the required element or outcome; they are provided as a way to share the intent of the element.

Some milestone descriptions include statements about performing independently. These activities must occur in conformity to ACGME supervision guidelines as described in the Program Requirements, as well as to institutional and program policies. For example, a fellow who performs a procedure independently must, at a minimum, be supervised through oversight.

A Supplemental Guide is also available to provide the intent of each subcompetency, examples for each level, assessment methods or tools, and other available resources. The Supplemental Guide, like examples contained within the Milestones, is designed only to assist the program director and Clinical Competency Committee, and is not meant to demonstrate any required element or outcome.

Additional resources are available in the <u>Milestones</u> section of the ACGME website. Follow the links under "What We Do" at <u>www.acgme.org</u>.

The diagram below presents an example set of milestones for one sub-competency in the same format as the ACGME Report Worksheet. For each reporting period, a fellow's performance on the milestones for each sub-competency will be indicated by selecting the level of milestones that best describes that fellow's performance in relation to those milestones.

Patient Care 4: Chronic (Care for Cardiovascular Co	nditions		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes clinical signs and symptoms of common chronic cardiovascular conditions	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Functions as an exceptional team leader in the chronic care setting
Discusses the treatment strategies for common cardiovascular conditions	Develops treatment strategies for common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Develops treatment strategies for common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Develops treatment strategies for complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Advances quality of clinical practice in the treatment strategies for chronic cardiovascular conditions
	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Effectively develops team-based care models in management of chronic cardiovascular conditions
Comments:				Completed Level 1 cal Deficiencies
Selecting a responsible of a level milestones in that levels have been demonstrated.	implies that t level and in lower		between levels indi	

Patient Care 1: Invasive Cardiovascular Testing					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Discusses the key steps and anatomy relevant to	Obtains and manages vascular access, with	Performs some elements of diagnostic cardiac catheterization, with direct supervision	Performs diagnostic cardiac catheterization, with direct supervision	Independently performs diagnostic cardiac catheterization	
the procedure	direct supervision	Performs some elements of selected common procedures, with direct supervision	Independently performs selected common procedures (e.g., pulmonary artery catheter, temporary pacing wire, arterial and venous access)		
	Recognizes normal coronary anatomy and standard angiographic views	Interprets angiographic and hemodynamic data, with supervision	Independently interprets angiographic and hemodynamic data and integrates with other clinical findings for common clinical conditions	Independently interprets angiographic and hemodynamic data and integrates with other clinical findings for complex clinical conditions	
Comments:	Comments: Not Yet Assessable Critical Deficiencies				

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Discusses the key steps of the test	Obtains and identifies standard views for transthoracic echocardiography	Performs and interprets a complete transthoracic echocardiography, with guidance	Independently performs and interprets transthoracic echocardiography in common clinical conditions	Independently performs and interprets transthoracic echocardiography in complex clinical conditions
	Participates in selected common tests, with direct supervision	Integrates data from selected common tests (e.g., nuclear, computed tomography [CT], magnetic resonance imaging [MRI], vascular ultrasound), with guidance	Independently integrates the data from selected common tests (e.g., nuclear, CT, MRI, vascular ultrasound)	Independently performs, interprets, and integrates selected common tests (e.g., nuclear, CT, MRI, vascular ultrasound)
Interprets electrocardiogram (ECG) patterns for common clinical conditions	Interprets ECG and ambulatory ECG; performs and interprets stress testing, with quidance	Interprets complex ECG, ambulatory ECG, and stress testing, with guidance	Independently interprets ECG and ambulatory ECG; independently performs and interprets stress testing	

Patient Care 3: Acute Care				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies patients with acute cardiac conditions (e.g., acute coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, decompensated heart failure, arrhythmias)	Manages patients with acute cardiac conditions (e.g., acute coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, decompensated heart failure, and arrhythmias), with direct supervision	Manages patients with acute cardiac conditions (e.g., acute coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, decompensated heart failure, and arrhythmias), with indirect supervision	Manages independently patients with acute cardiac conditions (e.g., acute coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, decompensated heart failure, and arrhythmias)	Functions as an exceptional team leader in the acute care setting
	Performs inpatient cardiovascular consultation, with direct supervision	Performs inpatient cardiovascular consultation, with indirect supervision	Effectively performs inpatient cardiovascular consultation	Advances quality of clinical practice in the treatment strategies for acute cardiovascular conditions
	Identifies options available for advanced therapies	Identifies patients appropriate for advanced therapies and when to initiate end-of-life care	Coordinates advanced therapies and end-of-life care	Effectively develops team-based care models in management of acute cardiovascular conditions
Comments:				ot Yet Assessable itical Deficiencies

Patient Care 4: Chronic (Care for Cardiovascular Co	nditions			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Recognizes clinical signs and symptoms of common chronic cardiovascular conditions	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Diagnoses and monitors for complications or changes related to complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Functions as an exceptional team leader in the chronic care setting	
Discusses the treatment strategies for common cardiovascular conditions	Develops treatment strategies for common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Develops treatment strategies for common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Develops treatment strategies for complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Advances quality of clinical practice in the treatment strategies for chronic cardiovascular conditions	
	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with direct supervision	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of common chronic cardiovascular conditions, with indirect supervision	Effectively participates in team-based care in management of complex chronic cardiovascular conditions	Effectively develops and implements team-based care models in management of chronic cardiovascular conditions	
Comments:	Comments: Not Yet Assessable Critical Deficiencies				

Patient Care

The fellow is demonstrating satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training program. He or she is demonstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that includes the delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

Yes	No	Conditional	on Improvement
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Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Knows available cardiovascular tests	Demonstrates knowledge of indications and contraindications for cardiovascular testing	Demonstrates knowledge of appropriate selection and use of cardiovascular testing for patients with common cardiovascular disorders	Applies knowledge of appropriate selection and use of cardiovascular testing for patients with complex cardiovascular disorders	Advances knowledge in indications, contraindications, and appropriate use for cardiovascular testing
	Knows the basic measurements obtained from the various cardiovascular testing modalities	Identifies key test findings in common cardiovascular disorders	Identifies key test findings in complex cardiovascular disorders	Advances knowledge in defining the role of cardiovascular testing

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Lists a differential diagnosis for common clinical presentations	Provides a comprehensive differential diagnosis for a wide range of clinical presentations	Provides a focused differential diagnosis based on individual patient presentation	Diagnoses patients with challenging presentations and uncommon disorders	Disseminates knowledge of challenging presentations and uncommon disorders
Lists therapeutic options for common clinical presentations	Explains advantages and drawbacks of standard therapeutic options	Justifies optimal therapeutic option based on individual patient presentation	Develops therapeutic plan for patients with challenging presentations and uncommon disorders	

Medical Knowledge

The fellow is demonstrating satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training program. He or she is demonstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that includes the delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

Yes	No	Conditional on Improvement

Systems-Based Practice	e 1: Patient Safety and Qual	ity Improvement		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of common patient safety events	Identifies system factors that lead to patient safety events	Participates in analysis of patient safety events (simulated or actual)	Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies (simulated or actual)	Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems (simulated or actual)	Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and families (simulated or actual)	Discloses patient safety events to patients and families (simulated or actual)	Role models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of basic quality improvement methodologies and metrics	Describes quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or departmental level	Participates in quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or departmental level	Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project	Creates, implements, and assesses quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or community level
Comments:	Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1			

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of care coordination	Coordinates care of patients in routine clinical situations, effectively using the roles of the interprofessional teams	Coordinates care of patients in complex clinical situations, effectively using the roles of their interprofessional teams	Role models effective coordination of patient- centered care among different disciplines and specialties	Analyzes the process of care coordination and leads in the design and implementation of improvements
Identifies key elements for effective transitions of care	Performs effective transitions of care in routine clinical situations	Performs effective transitions of care in complex clinical situations	Role models and advocates for effective transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems	Improves quality of transitions of care within and across healthcare delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes
	Demonstrates general knowledge of financial, cultural, and social barriers to adherence of care	Identifies financial, cultural, and social barriers to adherence of care to specific populations	Adapts practice to address the financial, cultural, and social barriers to adherence of care	Leads innovations and advocates for populations with health care inequities

Systems-Based Practice	Systems-Based Practice 3: Physician Role in Health Care Systems				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies key components of the health care system (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility, finance, personnel, technology)	Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts patient care	Discusses how individual practice affects the broader system (e.g., length of stay, readmission rates, clinical efficiency)	Manages various components of the complex health care system to provide efficient and effective patient care and transition of care	Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient and effective patient care and transition of care	
Describes basic health payment systems, (e.g., government, private, public, uninsured care) and practice models	Delivers care with consideration of each patient's payment model (e.g., insurance type)	Engages with patients in shared decision making, informed by each patient's payment models	Advocates for patient care needs (e.g., community resources, patient assistance resources) with consideration of the limitations of each patient's payment model	Participates in health policy advocacy activities	
	Demonstrates essential skills for documentation required for independent practice (e.g., electronic health record, documentation required for billing and coding)	Seeks knowledge in non- clinical topics needed for independent practice (e.g., malpractice insurance, government regulation, compliance)	Applies knowledge in non-clinical topics needed for independent practice	Educates others in non- clinical topics to prepare them for independent practice	
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1	

Systems-	-Based	Practice
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The fellow is dem	onstrating	satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training
program. He or sh	ne is demo	nstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that
includes the deliv	ery of safe	, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.
Yes	No	Conditional on Improvement

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 1: Evidence-Based and Informed Practice					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates how to access and use available evidence to manage a patient with cardiac disease	Articulates clinical questions and elicits patient preferences to guide evidence-based care	Locates and applies the best available evidence to the care of patients with complex cardiac disease while integrating patient preference	Critically appraises and applies available, potentially conflicting evidence to guide care of an individual patient	Develops initiatives to educate others to critically appraise and apply evidence for complex patients and/or participates in the development of guidelines	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Accepts responsibility for personal and professional development by establishing goals	Demonstrates openness to feedback and performance data in order to form goals	Occasionally seeks feedback and performance data with adaptability and humility	Systematically seeks feedback and performance data with adaptability and humility	Coaches others to seek feedback and performance data
Acknowledges limits and gaps between expectations and performance; demonstrates self-awareness	Analyzes the factors which contribute to limits and gaps; demonstrates appropriate help-seeking behaviors	Creates and implements a learning plan	Uses performance data to assess learning plan and improves it when necessary	Facilitates the design and implementation of learning plans for others
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1				

The fellow is demonstrating satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training program. He or she is demonstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that includes the delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

,	Yes	No	Conditional	on l	Improvement
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Professionalism 1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies and describes potential triggers for professionalism lapses	Demonstrates insight into professional behavior in routine situations	Demonstrates professional behavior in complex or stressful situations	Recognizes situations that may trigger professionalism lapses and intervenes to prevent lapses in self and others	Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations	
Demonstrates knowledge of ethical principles (e.g., informed consent, advance directives, confidentiality, patient autonomy)	Applies knowledge of ethical principles to routine situations	Recognizes need to seek help in managing and resolving complex ethical situations	Uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas (e.g., ethics consultations, risk management)	Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Professionalism 2: Accountability						
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5		
Takes responsibility for failure to complete tasks and responsibilities, identifies potential contributing factors, and describes strategies for ensuring timely task completion in the future	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in routine situations	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in complex or stressful situations	Recognizes situations that may impact others' ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Engages with the system to improve outcomes		
Recognizes the principles of conflict of interest in relationships with industry and other entities	Recognizes personal potential conflicts with industry	Seeks assistance in managing personal relationships with industry and other entities to minimize bias and undue influence in practice	Identifies, discloses, and manages relationships with industry and other entities to minimize bias and undue influence in practice			
Comments:	Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Professionalism 3: Self-Awareness and Well-Being					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Recognizes the importance of personal and professional well-being	Independently recognizes status of personal and professional well-being	With assistance, proposes a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being	Independently develops a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being	Participates in a system change to improve well-being in self and others	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					
Professionalism The fellow is demonstrating satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training program. He or she is demonstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that includes the delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.					
Yes No	Conditional on Improveme	ent			

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates respect and establishes rapport in patient encounters	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in routine patient encounters	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient encounters, with guidance	Independently establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient encounters	Mentors others in situational awareness and critical self-reflection to consistently develop positive therapeutic relationships
Knows barriers to effective communication (e.g., language, disability, health literacy, cultural, personal bias)	Identifies barriers to effective communication in patient encounters	Attempts to minimize communication barriers, including reflection on any personal biases	Proactively minimizes communication barriers and independently manages personal biases	Role models self- awareness to minimize communication barriers
Identifies the need to adjust communication strategies to achieve shared decision making	Organizes and initiates communication with patient/family to facilitate shared decision making	Uses shared decision making to implement a personalized care plan, under guidance	Independently, uses shared decision making to implement a personalized care plan	Role models shared decision making

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Respectfully receives a consultation request	Respectfully and thoroughly completes consultations with effective documentation and communication in common cases, with direct supervision	Completes consultations with effective documentation and communication in common cases, with indirect supervision	Completes consultations with effective documentation and communication in complex cases	
Uses language that values all members of the health care team	ues all members of information effectively		Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team to optimize patient care	Role models flexible communication strategies that value input from all health care team members, resolving conflict when needed
	Participates in team- based discussions to optimize team performance	Initiates team-based discussions to optimize team performance	Facilitates team-based discussions to optimize team performance	Facilitates regular health care team-based feedback in complex situations

	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates organized diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record	Concisely reports diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning in the patient record	Independently communicates timely information in a written format and verbally when appropriate	Models written communication to improve others' performance
Identifies appropriate communication channels (e.g., cell phone/ pager usage, medical record, email) as required by institutional policy	Respectfully communicates concerns about the system	Uses appropriate channels to offer clear and constructive suggestions to improve the system	Guides departmental or institutional communication around policies and procedures
=======================================	diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record Identifies appropriate communication channels (e.g., cell phone/ pager usage, medical record, email) as required by	diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record Identifies appropriate communication channels (e.g., cell phone/ pager usage, medical record, email) as required by diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning in the patient record Respectfully communicates concerns about the system	diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record Identifies appropriate communication channels (e.g., cell phone/ pager usage, medical record, email) as required by diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning in the patient record the patient record the patient record communicates timely information in a written format and verbally when appropriate Communicates timely information in a written format and verbally when appropriate channels to offer clear and constructive suggestions to improve the system

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The fellow is demonstrating satisfactory development of the knowledge, skill, and attitudes/behaviors needed to advance in the training program. He or she is demonstrating a learning trajectory that anticipates the achievement of competency for unsupervised practice that includes the delivery of safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

Ye	S	No	Conditional	on I	mprovement
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Overall Clinical Competence

is rating represents the assessment of the fellow's development of overall clinical competence during this year of training:
Superior: Far exceeds the expected level of development for this year of training
Satisfactory: Always meets and occasionally exceeds the expected level of development for this year of training
Conditional on Improvement: Meets some developmental milestones but occasionally falls short of the expected level of development for this year of training. An improvement plan is in place to facilitate achievement of competence appropriate to the level of training.
Unsatisfactory: Consistently falls short of the expected level of development for this year of training.