

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Milestones

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education



Second Revision: March 2019 First Revision: October 2014

Hospice and Palliative Medicine 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.

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Milestones

Co-Chairs

Jillian Gustin, MD and Lindy Landzaat, DO, FAAHPM

Work Group

Michael Barnett, MD, MS, FACP, FAAP,

FAAHPM

Gary Buckholz, MD, HMDC, FAAHPM

April Christensen, MD, MS

Laura Edgar, EdD, CAE

Jennifer Hwang, MD, MHS

Catherine Bree Johnston, MD, MPH

Dale Lupu, MPH, PhD

Laura J. Morrison, MD, FAAHPM

Tomasz Okon, MD

Steven M. Radwany, MD, FACP, FAAHPM

Holly Yang, MD, MSHPEd, HMDC, FACP,

FAAHPM

The ACGME would like to thank the following organizations for their continued support in the development of the Milestones:

American Board of Internal Medicine

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative 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 resident/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 resident 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 resident 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.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies the hospice physician as having a specific clinical role in the hospice interdisciplinary team (IDT)	Describes key domains of clinical competence for hospice physicians including interdisciplinary teamwork, management of physical symptoms, and utilization of the hospice formulary	Demonstrates clinical competence in the role of hospice physician including interdisciplinary teamwork, management of physical symptoms, and utilization of the hospice formulary, with supervision	Demonstrates clinical competence in the role of hospice physician across all hospice settings	Teaches and role models hospice care to non- hospice physicians across settings
Identifies general eligibility guidelines for hospice care	Describes major regulatory requirements and guidelines for hospice care including eligibility, levels of care, and scope of mandated services	Demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines for hospice care, including documentation, visits, IDT oversight, and institutional policy implementation, with supervision	Demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines in the role of hospice physician across all hospice settings	Advocates locally, regionally, or nationally for the hospice model of care
Comments:			Not Yet (Completed Level 1
Selecting a respo	onse box in the	Sele	ecting a response bo	x on the line in
middle of a level	implies that	betw	veen levels indicates	s that milestones
milestones in tha	t level and in lower	in lo	wer levels have bee	n substantially
levels have been	substantially	dem	onstrated as well as	some
demonstrated.		mile	stones in the higher	level(s).

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Performs a general history and physical	Performs a symptom- focused history and physical	Performs a detailed symptom assessment using developmentally appropriate symptom assessment tools	Performs a comprehensive symptom assessment using developmentally appropriate symptom assessment tools in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team	Promotes comprehensive symptom assessment across care teams
Performs a general psychosocial history	Identifies potential supports and stressors for patients and their families/caregivers including psychological, spiritual, social, developmental stage, financial, and cultural factors	Performs a detailed psychosocial and spiritual assessment using developmentally appropriate assessment tools	Performs a comprehensive psychosocial and spiritual assessment using developmentally appropriate assessment tools in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team	Promotes comprehensive psychosocial and spiritual assessment across care teams

Patient Care 2: Addressi	ng Suffering and Distress			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Manages common physical symptoms with basic treatment options	Manages common physical symptoms with a range of treatment options	Manages complex physical symptoms with a comprehensive range of treatment options	Manages refractory symptoms across care settings	Manages physical symptoms with innovative and advanced treatment options
Acknowledges psychosocial and spiritual distress	Refers to interdisciplinary team to address psychosocial and spiritual distress	Collaborates with the interdisciplinary team to manage psychosocial and spiritual distress	Provides comprehensive management for complex psychosocial and spiritual distress in collaboration with community resources across care settings	Maintains a therapeutic presence for a patient with intractable suffering and assists families and teams
Identifies palliative emergencies	Initiates medical management for emergencies	Mobilizes the interdisciplinary team and manages an emergency using comprehensive treatments consistent with patient goals	Consistently manages and provides anticipatory coaching across care settings	Participates in systems improvement opportunities to address patient care emergencies
Comments:				Completed Level 1 Assessable

Patient Care 3: Withhole	ding and/or Withdrawal of L	ife-Sustaining Therapies (L	ST)	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies distress associated with withholding or withdrawing artificial nutrition or hydration (ANH)	Identifies ethical, legal, institutional, cultural, and religious perspectives to withholding or withdrawing ANH	Develops a care plan considering burdens and benefits of withholding or withdrawing ANH in specific clinical scenarios	Facilitates shared decision making; plans for withholding or withdrawal of ANH; provides support to family/caregivers and teams	Promotes best practices in withholding or withdrawal of ANH or LST at the system level
Identifies distress associated with withholding or withdrawing LST	Identifies ethical, legal, institutional, cultural, and religious perspectives to withholding or withdrawing LST	Manages withdrawal of LST and manages symptoms before, during, and after withdrawal or in lieu of withholding LST	Facilitates shared decision making; plans for withholding or withdrawal of LST; provides support to family/caregivers and teams	
Comments:				Completed Level 1 Assessable

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies signs and symptoms of imminent dying	Identifies risk of and manages common symptoms for the imminently dying	Manages evolving symptoms in the context of declining organ function for the imminently dying	Manages distressing symptoms of imminent death, including complex and refractory symptoms, across care settings	Promotes best practices in care of the imminently dying at the system level
Identifies patients and families/caregivers in distress	Assesses the etiology of psychosocial and spiritual distress in patients and families/caregivers and uses the interdisciplinary team to provide basic support	Provides anticipatory planning for patients, families/caregivers and teams	Provides culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate psychosocial and spiritual support to distressed patients and families/caregivers, and identifies families at risk for complex bereavement	

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

^{*}Only required for Internal Medicine based programs

Medical Knowledge 1: D	Disease Trajectories and For	mulation of Prognosis in S	erious Illness	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes common illness trajectories	Identifies illness trajectory of less common disease and recognizes prognostic uncertainty	Identifies potential impact of treatment on the illness trajectory	Integrates modifying factors on the illness trajectory including multi-morbidity, psychosocial factors, and functional status	Advances knowledge of application or prognostication in serious illness
Identifies prognostic formulation as a key element for shared decision making	Identifies and describes prognostic factors, tools, and models	Formulates a prognosis by integrating prognostic factors, tools, and models, recognizing limitations	Facilitates consensus on prognosis in collaboration with other care providers	
Comments:				Completed Level 1

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Lists commonly available opioid and non-opioid analgesics	Describes indications and use of opioid and non-opioid analgesics	Demonstrates knowledge of mechanism of action, metabolism, adverse effects, interactions, and conversions of opioid and non-opioid analgesics	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of pharmacology of opioid and non-opioid analgesics with risks and benefits related to specific patient characteristics	Advances knowledge about pain management for palliative patients
Lists non-pharmacologic interventions for pain	Describes indications of use of non-pharmacologic interventions for pain	Describes locally available non-pharmacologic interventions of pain	Demonstrates evidence-based knowledge of non- pharmacologic interventions	
Lists procedural interventions for pain	Describes indications for some procedural and advanced interventions to address pain	Describes referral criteria for locally available procedural and advanced interventions to address pain	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of appropriate procedural and advanced interventions to address pain in specific patients	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Lists commonly available medications for non-pain symptoms	Descries indications and use of medications for non-pain symptoms	Demonstrates knowledge of mechanism of action, metabolism, adverse effects, interactions, and conversions (if applicable) of medications for non- pain symptoms	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of pharmacology of medications for non-pain symptoms with risks and benefits related to specific patient characteristics	Advances knowledge about management for non-pain symptoms for palliative patients
Lists non-pharmacologic nterventions for non- pain symptoms	Describes indications and use non-pharmacologic interventions for non-pain symptoms	Describes locally available non-pharmacologic interventions for non-pain symptoms	Demonstrates evidence-based knowledge of non- pharmacologic interventions for non- pain symptoms	
Lists procedural interventions for non-pain symptoms	Describes indications for some procedural and advanced interventions to address non-pain symptoms	Describes referral criteria for locally available procedural and advanced interventions to address non-pain symptoms	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of appropriate procedural and advanced interventions to address non-pain symptoms in specific patients	

Medicai Knowledd	Knowledge
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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 (actual or simulated)	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 local quality improvement initiatives (e.g., advance directives, hospice length stay)	Participates in local quality improvement initiatives	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

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 incorporating patient and family goals, illness trajectory, and available resources	Role models effective coordination of patient- centered care among different disciplines and specialties	Analyses the process of care coordination and leads in the design and implementation of improvements
Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions of care and hand-offs	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in routine clinical situations	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in complex clinical situations	Role models and advocates for safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems, including outpatient settings	Improves quality of transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes
Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and disparities	Identifies specific population and community health needs and inequities for the local population	Uses local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community	Participates in changing and adapting practice to provide for the needs of specific populations	Leads innovations and advocates for populations and communities with health care inequities

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies components of the complex health care system	Describes the physician's role and how the interrelated components of the complex health care system impact patient care	Analyzes how personal practice affects the system (e.g., length of stay, readmission rates, prescribing patterns)	Manages the interrelated components of the complex health care systems for patient- and family-centered, efficient, and effective patient care	Advocates for or leads change to enhance systems for patient- and family-centered, high value, efficient, and effective patient care
Describes basic health payment systems, including government, private, public, and uninsured care, as well as different practice models	Describes payment model for serious illness (e.g., hospice, palliative care, rehab, concurrent care)	Uses shared decision making in patient care, taking into consideration payment models	Advocates for patient care, understanding the limitations of each patient's payment model (e.g., community resources, patient assistance resources)	Participates in advocacy activities for health policy to better align payment systems with high-value care
	Describes models of hospice and palliative care practice	Identifies resources for transition to independent practice	Describes resources for leadership and program development and effectively plans for transition to independent practice	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies the hospice physician as having a specific clinical role in the hospice interdisciplinary team	Describes key domains of clinical competence for hospice physicians including interdisciplinary teamwork, management of physical symptoms, and use of the hospice formulary	Demonstrates clinical competence in the role of hospice physician including interdisciplinary teamwork, management of physical symptoms, and use of the hospice formulary, with supervision	Demonstrates clinical competence in the role of hospice physician across all hospice settings	Teaches and role models hospice care to non-hospice physicians across settings
Identifies general eligibility guidelines for hospice care	Describes major regulatory requirements and guidelines for hospice care including eligibility, levels of care, and scope of mandated services	Demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines for hospice care, including documentation, visits, interdisciplinary team oversight, and institutional policy implementation, with supervision	Demonstrates compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines in the role of hospice physician across all hospice settings	Advocates locally, regionally, or nationally for the hospice model of care

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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 in routine patient care	Articulates clinical questions and elicits patient preferences and values in order to guide evidence-based care	Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patient preferences and values to guide patient care	Critically appraises and applies evidence, even in the face of uncertainty and conflicting evidence, to guide care tailored to the individual patient	Coaches others to critically appraise and apply evidence and patient preferences and values into clinical care, and/or participates in the developing guidelines
Comments:			Not Yet Co	mpleted 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 performance data (feedback and other input) in order to inform goals	Seeks performance data episodically, with adaptability and humility	Intentionally seeks performance data consistently, with adaptability and humility	Role models consistently seeking performance data, with adaptability and humility
Identifies gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Analyzes and reflects on the factors that contribute to gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Analyzes, reflects on, and institutes behavioral change(s) to narrow the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance, with guidance	Independently analyzes, reflects on, and institutes behavioral change(s) to narrow the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Coaches others on reflective practice
Actively seeks opportunities to improve	Designs and implements a learning plan, with prompting	Independently creates and implements a learning plan	Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and, when necessary, improves it	Facilitates the design and implementation of learning plans for others

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

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Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies and describes potential triggers and reporting processes for professionalism lapses	Takes responsibility for own professionalism lapses	Demonstrates professional behavior in complex stressful situations	Recognizes and intervenes in situations that may trigger professionalism lapses in self and others	Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations
Demonstrates knowledge of the ethical principles underlying informed consent, surrogate decision making, advance directives, confidentiality, error disclosure, stewardship of limited resources, and related topics	Demonstrates knowledge of the ethical principles underlying hospice and palliative medicine issues	Analyzes and seeks help in managing and resolving complex ethical situations	Collaborates with and uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas as needed (e.g., ethics consultations, literature review, risk management/legal consultation)	Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution

Professionalism 2: Accountability/Conscientiousness				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Responds promptly to requests or reminders to complete tasks and responsibilities	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in routine situations	Performs tasks and responsibilities in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team	Addresses situations that impacts the interdisciplinary team's ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Proactively implements strategies to ensure that the needs of patients, teams, and systems are met
Comments:			Not Yet	Completed Level 1

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes status of personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Independently recognizes status of personal and professional well-being	Proposes a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Independently develops a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being	Coaches others when emotional responses or limitations in knowledge/skills do not meet professional expectations
Recognizes limits in the knowledge/skills of self or team and values feedback, with assistance	Independently recognizes limits in the knowledge/skills of self or team and welcomes feedback	Receives and integrates feedback into a plan to remediate or improve limits in the knowledge/skills of self or team, with assistance	Independently seeks, receives, and integrates feedback and develops a plan to remediate or improve limits in the knowledge/skills of self or team	

Professionalism

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____ Yes ____ No ____ Conditional on Improvement

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Interpersonal and Comm	unication Skills 1: Patient-	and Family-Centered Com	munication Level 4	Level 5
Uses language and non- verbal behavior to demonstrate respect and establish rapport	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in straightforward encounters using active listening and clear language	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient/family encounters	Easily establishes therapeutic relationships, with attention to patient/family concerns and context, regardless of complexity	Mentors others in situational awareness and critical self-reflection to consistently develop positive therapeutic relationships
Identifies common barriers to effective communication (e.g., language, disability) while accurately communicating own role within the health care system	Identifies complex barriers to effective communication (e.g., developmental stage, health literacy, cultural norms)	Reflects on personal biases and modifies approach to minimize communication barriers	Consistently recognizes personal biases while attempting to proactively minimize communication barriers	Mentors self-awareness practice and educates others to use a contextual approach to minimize communication barriers
Comments:	Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1			

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Respectfully receives a consultation request	Clearly and concisely responds to a consultation request	Checks understanding of recommendations when providing consultation	Integrates 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
Understands and respects the role and function of interdisciplinary team members	Solicits insights from and uses language that values all interdisciplinary team members	Integrates contributions from the interdisciplinary team members into the care plan	Prevents and mediates conflict and distress among the interdisciplinary team members	Fosters a culture of open communication and effective teamwork within the interdisciplinary team
Understands and respects the role and function of other health care teams	Solicits insights from other health care teams using language that values all members	Integrates contributions from other health care team members into the care plan	Addresses conflict and distress among other health care team members in complex patient situations	Attends to individual and team distress and promotes resilience among other health care teams

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Accurately records information in the patient record	Demonstrates organized diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record	Concisely reports diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning and physician-patient communications in the patient record, including goals of care and advance care planning	Communicates clearly, concisely, in a timely manner, and in an organized written form, including anticipatory guidance	Advocates for a systems approach for consistent documentation of palliative care plan within or across care settings
Safeguards patient personal health information	Demonstrates accurate, timely, and appropriate use of documentation shortcuts	Appropriately selects direct (e.g., telephone, inperson) and indirect (e.g., progress notes, text messages) forms of communication based on context	Produces written or verbal communication (e.g., patient notes, e- mail, etc.) that serves as an example for others to follow	Guides departmental or institutional communication around policies and procedures
Communicates through appropriate channels as required by institution policy (e.g., patient safety reports, cell phone/pager usage)	Documents required data in formats specified by institutional policy	Uses appropriate channels to offer clear and constructive suggestions to improve the system	Collaborates with the interdisciplinary team to initiate difficult conversations with appropriate stakeholders to improve the system	Facilitates dialogue regarding systems issues among larger community stakeholders (e.g., institution, health care system, field)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies prognostic communication as a key element for shared decision making	Assesses the patient's families/caregivers' prognostic awareness and identifies preferences for receiving prognostic information	Delivers basic prognostic information and attends to emotional responses of patient and families/caregivers	Tailors communication of prognosis according to disease characteristics and trajectory, patient consent, family needs, and medical uncertainty, and is able to address intense emotional response	Coaches others in the communication of prognostic information
Identifies the need to assess patient/family expectations and understanding of their health status and treatment options	Facilitates communication with patient/family by introducing stakeholders, setting the agenda, clarifying expectations, and verifying an understanding of the clinical situation	Sensitively and compassionately delivers medical information; elicits patient/family values, goals and preferences; and acknowledges uncertainty and conflict, with guidance	Independently uses shared decision making to align patient/family values, goals, and preferences with treatment options to make a personalized care plan in situations with a high degree of uncertainty and conflict	Coaches shared decision making in patient/family communication

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.

Yes ____ No ___ Conditional on Improvement

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Overall Clinical Competence

This	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.

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