

Core Competencies

The six general competencies endorsed by the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate medical Education) at its September 1999 meeting are patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning and improvement, professionalism, and systems-based practice. The AOA has adopted these criteria with the addition of a seventh competency in osteopathic principles and practices. Language related to the general competencies has been added by the Residency Review Committees to each set of core Program Requirements and by the Institutional Review Committee to the Institutional Requirements. The competencies act as organizing principles for the curricula of all core specialty programs and reflect the expectation that graduating residents should exhibit behaviors reflective of these competencies at a level appropriate to an independent practitioner. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has also endorsed the general competencies for use by certifying boards in the examination and re-certification of physicians.

Osteopathic emergency medicine residents are expected to obtain competence in the seven domains below. The seven general competencies form the basis for the goals and objectives of each rotation. Specific knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes required will be specified in the clinical rotation summary for each rotation.

1. Patient Care: Residents must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

- a) Gather accurate, essential information in a timely manner.
- b) Generate an appropriate differential diagnosis
- c) Implement an effective patient management plan.
- d) Competently perform the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and emergency stabilization.
- e) Prioritize and stabilize multiple patients and perform other responsibilities simultaneously.
- f) Provide health care services aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health.
- g) Work with health care professionals to provide patient focused care.

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2. Medical Knowledge: Residents must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate (e.g. epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

- a) Identify life-threatening conditions, the most likely diagnosis, synthesize acquired patient data, and identify how and when to access current medical information
- b) Properly sequence critical actions for patient care and generate a differential diagnosis for an undifferentiated patient
- c) Complete disposition of patients using available resources

3. Practice-Based Learning: Residents must be able to investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their patient care practices.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

- a) Analyze and assess their practice experience and perform practice-based improvement
- b) Locate, appraise and utilize scientific evidence related to their patient's health problems
- c) Apply knowledge of study design and statistical methods to critically appraise the medical literature
- d) Utilize information technology to enhance their education and improve patient care
- e) Facilitate the learning of students and other health care professionals.

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Residents must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families and professional associates.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

- a) Develop an effective therapeutic relationship with patients and their families, with respect for diversity and cultural, ethnic, spiritual, emotional, and age-specific differences.

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- b) Demonstrate effective participation in and leadership of the health care team.
- c) Develop effective written communication skills.
- d) Demonstrate the ability to handle situations unique to the practice of emergency medicine.
- e) Effectively communicate with out-of-hospital personnel as well as non-medical personnel.

5. Professionalism: Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Residents are expected to demonstrate a set of model behaviors that include but are not limited to:

- a) Treats patients/family/staff/paraprofessional personnel with respect
- b) Protects staff/family/patient's interests/confidentiality
- c) Demonstrates sensitivity to patient's pain, emotional state, and gender/ethnicity issues,
- d) Able to discuss death honestly, sensitively, patiently, and compassionately
- e) Unconditional positive regard for the patient, family, staff, and consultants
- f) Accepts responsibility/accountability
- g) Openness and responsiveness to the comments of other team members, patients, families, and peers

6) Systems-Based Practice: Residents must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

- a) Understand, access, appropriately utilize, and evaluate the effectiveness of the resources, providers, and systems necessary to provide optimal emergency care
- b) Understand different medical practice models and delivery systems and how to best utilize them to care for the individual patient
- c) Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
- d) Advocate for and facilitates patients' advancement through the health care system.

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7) Osteopathic Principles and Practices: Residents must demonstrate an awareness of the basic tenets of osteopathic philosophy and ability in basic manipulative medicine.

Among other things, residents are expected to:

Understand the interdependence of the musculoskeletal /lymphatic system and other organ systems.

Understand that the mind, body and spirit all interact in the promotion of health and wellbeing.

Demonstrate the ability to utilize osteopathic manipulative medicine as a part of their patient care regimen.