Designing a competency-based program for anesthesiology postgraduate training: Core of Discipline

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The Department of Anesthesiology, University of Ottawa, launched a competency-based residency training program July 1, 2015 following successful application of a Fundamental Innovations in Residency Education (FIRE) grant from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). The program is structured according to the Competence by Design (CBD) stages. This poster summarizes the design and implementation of the Core of Discipline stage.

BACKGROUND

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CORE OF DISCIPLINE OVERVIEW

- 39 four-week blocks.
- 13 subspecialty-specific modules based on National Curriculum for Canadian Anesthesia Residency: Acute pain, airway, cardiac anesthesia, chronic pain, clinical pharmacology and complex surgery, neuro anesthesia, obstetrical anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, perioperative medicine, regional anesthesia, remote location anesthesia, thoracic anesthesia, and vascular anesthesia.
- Divided into Core I and Core II, comparable to junior and senior residency respectively.
- Core II revisits and reinforces more advanced core and subspecialty competencies of anesthesia first addressed in Core I.
- Subspecialty experts recruited as Module Leads to design curriculum and assessment approaches to address milestones for their module with support of an educational expert.
- Residents must complete predefined educational requirements for each module before being allowed to progress to the next stage of training.
- Opportunities for additional time to achieve milestones and/or do electives at the end of Core II.

MODULE EXAMPLE: NEURO CORE I

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Required readings
2. Minimum 8 days booked with subspecialty staff
3. Maintain case calendar for review
4. Log cases in Resident Logbook
5. Deliver 10-15 minute presentation on clinically pertinent topic
6. Complete 6 Core I neuro anesthesia learning cases
7. Complete 12 Clinical Case Assessment Tool (CCAT)
8. Pass two written quizzes

EXAMPLES OF REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER MODULES:
- Case summaries
- Partial task training
- Assessment of specific technical skills
- MCQ examinations
- Online modules
- Simulation

CLINICAL CASE ASSESSMENT TOOL

- Online resident-driven assessment tool that capitalizes on faculty’s ability to judge competent clinical performance.
- Designed to increase face-to-face feedback to residents and resident self-assessment.
- Residents reflect on what they did well, what they would do differently next time, and the next steps in their learning plan.
- CCAT shared with staff who then assess resident performance on a three-item, five-response option behaviourally anchored scale:

- Responses organized by CanMEDS role in report.

LEARNING CASES

- Replace core academic half-days, which are typically not synchronized with relevant clinical experiences.
- Linked to module resident is completing so residents learn topics relevant to their current clinical context.
- Each case, accessible online, provides residents with a case scenario followed by questions to direct their learning, as well as selected resources.
- Residents then meet with staff to discuss case and be assessed against the expected level of competence defined.

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