



EPA Descriptors All-In-One

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Contents

EPA1 Manage the care of children with acute presentations	3
EPA2 Manage the care of children with chronic conditions.....	3
EPA3 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of children	3
EPA4 - Manage the mental health needs of children	3
EPA5 - Manage the care of adolescents (12-18) with acute presentations.....	4
EPA6 - Manage the care of adolescents (12-18) with chronic conditions	4
EPA7 - Manage the mental health needs of adolescents (12-18)	4
EPA8 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of adolescents (12-18)	5
EPA9 - Manage the care of adults, including the elderly, with acute presentations.....	5
EPA10 - Manage the care of adults, including the elderly, with chronic conditions and complex multimorbidity	5
EPA11 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of adults, including the elderly	6
EPA12 - Manage the mental health needs of adults, including the elderly	6
EPA13 - Advocate for patients	6
EPA14 - Manage a pregnancy.....	6
EPA15 - Care of the patient with life-limiting illness, palliative care and end-of-life care needs.....	7
EPA16 - Manage investigations.....	7
EPA17 - Manage the integration of evidence-based therapeutics into patient care and prescribe and manage medications	7
EPA18 - Manage the GP practice and available resources	8



EPA1 Manage the care of children with acute presentations

At the end of training the GP is able to assess, manage, triage/prioritise urgent cases, treat and appropriately follow-up the care of the acutely unwell child within the daytime practice and out-of-hours setting. The GP is able to communicate appropriately with the parent and child while maintaining a good doctor-patient relationship in an efficient manner. The GP has a knowledge and understanding of the legal framework pertaining to children and is able to effectively navigate the complexities of family dynamics, recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA2 Manage the care of children with chronic conditions

At the end of training the GP demonstrates the ability to lead the care of the child with (multiple) chronic conditions, acting as a gatekeeper to coordinate care between providers and care settings, within the daytime practice and the out-of-hours setting. The GP is able to communicate appropriately and effectively with the parent and child while maintaining a good doctor-patient relationship. The GP has a knowledge and understanding of the legal framework pertaining to children and is able to recognise and navigate the complexities of family dynamics, recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA3 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of children

At the end of training the GP recognises the essential role and responsibility of the GP in childhood health promotion & preventative health (including health, nutrition and well-being) in partnership with families, carers and other care providers. The GP is familiar with the current childhood vaccination schedule and its administration. The GP is able to communicate appropriately with the parent and child while maintaining a good doctor-patient relationship in an efficient manner. The GP has a knowledge and understanding of the legal framework pertaining to children and demonstrates the ability to navigate the complexities of family dynamics, recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA4 - Manage the mental health needs of children

At the end of training the GP is able to identify the mental health needs of children within the daytime practice and out-of-hours setting. The GP can recognise the range of 'normal' stress responses and reactions and the impact of labelling within these normal boundaries. The GP is able to advise the child and parent(s) on supports and strategies available while monitoring the situation where appropriate. The GP is also able to recognise the signs of acute and chronic mental illness and refer for specialist assessment/management. The GP is able to communicate appropriately with the parent and child while maintaining a good doctor-patient



relationship in an efficient manner. The GP has a knowledge and understanding of the legal framework pertaining to children and demonstrates the ability to navigate the complexities of family dynamics, recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA5 - Manage the care of adolescents (12-18) with acute presentations

At the end of training the GP is able to manage care of the adolescent in the daytime practice, emergency or out-of- hours settings and is able to appreciate the unique nature of the adolescent consultation and address the particular issues associated with consent. They are able to gain the trust and confidence of the adolescent and can address the specific sexual health needs of the adolescent, appreciating the unique health beliefs of adolescents and the various sources of their beliefs, in particular peers, media/social media. The GP is able to appreciate the unique challenges and legislative requirements associated with adolescent care while also recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA6 - Manage the care of adolescents (12-18) with chronic conditions

At the end of training the GP is able to appreciate the unique nature of the adolescent consultation and address the particular issues associated with consent in the daytime practice and out-of-hours settings. The GP recognises the impact of a chronic illness on the physical, social, biological and psychological development of the adolescent. They are able to gain the trust and confidence of the adolescent. The GP can appreciate the unique health beliefs of adolescents and the various sources of their beliefs, in particular peers, media/social media. The GP recognises the unique challenges and legislative requirements associated with adolescent care while recognising and supporting the critical role of parents.

EPA7 - Manage the mental health needs of adolescents (12-18)

By the end of training the GP is able to recognise and identify the mental health needs of the adolescent and able to discriminate between normal and abnormal development and behaviour in the adolescent. The GP is familiar with the range of pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods available and is able to address presentations associated with substance abuse, self-harm and suicidal ideation. They demonstrate knowledge of the mental health services available for adolescents with mental health or gender identity issues. The GP is able to manage care of the adolescent presenting with a mental health issue in the GP surgery, emergency or out-of-hours setting. The GP can appreciate the unique health beliefs of adolescents and the various sources of their beliefs, in particular peers, media/social media.



EPA8 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of adolescents (12-18)

At the end of training, the GP is able to recognise the essential role and responsibility of the GP in adolescent health promotion & preventative health (including health, nutrition and well-being) in partnership with families, carers and other care providers. The GP is familiar with current adolescent vaccination options and schedules and their administration. The GP is able to communicate appropriately with the adolescent and maintain a good doctor-patient relationship in an efficient manner. The GP recognises the unique challenges and legislative requirements associated with adolescent care while recognising and supporting the critical role of parents

EPA9 - Manage the care of adults, including the elderly, with acute presentations

At the end of training, a GP is able to differentiate between emergency, urgent and non-urgent acute presentations among adult and elderly patients. The doctor is able to assess the patient using a thorough history and examination with investigations and to formulate a management plan. The doctor identifies the need for referral with appropriate documentation and follow-up. The GP also makes effective use of practice resources, personnel and systems to manage acute care during routine day-time practice within the GP practice setting and in out-of-hours settings.

EPA10 - Manage the care of adults, including the elderly, with chronic conditions and complex multimorbidity

At the end of training, the GP is able to manage the complexity of chronic care both in routine daytime practice within the GP practice and in out-of-hours settings. Using a holistic approach and judicious use of resources and community orientation, the doctor establishes a long term therapeutic partnership with the patient and their carer(s). The GP is able to recognise acute exacerbations of chronic conditions and coordinate the care and movement of patients between primary and other care settings. The GP ensures the appropriate and thorough management of the flow of information between these care settings and empowers patients to manage their own health needs and care decisions where possible.



EPA11 - Manage the health promotion and preventative health needs of adults, including the elderly

At the end of training the GP is able to identify and use opportunities to promote the patient's understanding of their condition(s) and control of their own health. The GP uses their skills to empower patients to make better lifestyle choices, guiding their patient according to the best evidence on diagnostic and treatment choices. The GP also balances the needs of the individual with those of the community.

EPA12 - Manage the mental health needs of adults, including the elderly

At the end of training the GP is able to recognise and treat the range of mental health problems which present in the GP surgery and in the out-of-hours setting. The GP can identify psychological distress which manifests as physical ailments. The GP recognises and refers psychosis and serious mental illness. They use the available range of pharmacological and non-pharmacological remedies. They work with the available range of services in primary and secondary/tertiary care. They work within current legislative requirements.

EPA13 - Advocate for patients

At the end of training the GP is able to advocate for patients, encouraging the patient (where possible) to address issues with other healthcare providers. The GP is able to implement a range of methods and techniques - taking in account local constraints and opportunities - to represent the patient as needed. The doctor demonstrates the ability to appreciate hidden and latent patient specific issues which may hinder the patient's ability to represent themselves and their healthcare needs. The doctor is able to address advocacy for short term episode issues and also longer-term issues and advocate for equitable access to and use of healthcare.

EPA14 - Manage a pregnancy

At the end of training the GP is able to provide for both routine and emergency pregnancy care, in conjunction with the local and/or national maternity services as needed and demonstrates knowledge of other, less common, antenatal appointment regimens. The GP demonstrates the ability to manage the common conditions of pregnancy as well as serious presentations. The doctor delivers care at both urgent and routine pregnancy visits, including postpartum routine checks, with appropriate record-keeping, consultation skills, physical exam with measurements as appropriate and use of technologies such as pulse doppler. The doctor practices within the ethical and legal frameworks for termination of pregnancy. The GP is also able to counsel patients presenting with an unplanned/crisis pregnancy and refer for appropriate care.



EPA15 - Care of the patient with life-limiting illness, palliative care and end-of-life care needs

At the end of training the GP is able to comprehensively manage the needs of patients approaching the end of life and those with life-limiting illness. The GP demonstrates a patient-centred approach to care, with appropriate involvement of the family / carers, considering the multiple medical, social and psychological factors involved. The wishes and cultural beliefs of the patient are prioritised and the GP communicates sensitively, openly and compassionately with the patient and their family. The GP works closely with the members of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to achieve the best outcomes for patients. They are able to attend to the specific clinical aspects of palliative care including the specialised drugs for symptom management, recognition of stage of disease, and consider the legal aspects of end-of-life care. They GP attends to their own needs and the needs of the family after death of the patient.

EPA16 - Manage investigations

At the end of training the GP is able to request appropriate laboratory and radiological investigations, consistent with evidence-based primary care management. They can explain and rationalise the requirement to the patient and to the laboratory/radiological department. The interpretation of these tests reflects the clinical context and assists the diagnosis and formulation of differential diagnoses. The GP also manages the volume of tests processed in the practice systematically and safely and audits the management of investigations in a GP practice. The GP coordinates the flow of information arising from the investigations for use in referral to other care providers and services.

EPA17 - Manage the integration of evidence-based therapeutics into patient care and prescribe and manage medications

By the end of training the GP is able to safely prescribe medications for symptomatic relief and disease modification in normal daytime and in the out-of-hours setting. The GP communicates with patients to check contraindications, explain side effects and encourage adherence; sets up and manages practice systems to manage medication reviews, medication monitoring, transitional care prescribing and polypharmacy. The GP also demonstrates critical thinking in prescribing ethically and ensuring cost effective decision-making.



EPA18 - Manage the GP practice and available resources

At the end of training the GP is aware of the overarching importance of promoting and preserving high quality general practice and improved care within their practice, their primary care team and their local community. The GP works with the practice team (GP colleagues, nurses, administrative staff and other primary care team members in the practice) to ensure that appropriate systems, protocols and procedures are formulated and implemented to safeguard all aspects of patient care. The GP is aware of his/her responsibilities as an employer and of the need for compliance with legal, contractual and ethical obligations in this regard. The GP is also aware of the importance of the gatekeeper, the importance of appropriate use of resources in both primary and secondary care and is willing and able to implement these principles in his/her own practice. The GP interacts with the wider primary care team in order to enhance patient care within his/her practice and community. The GP is aware of the need for self-care, including time management, within the practice.