

53 Assessment of Emergency Medicine Resident Competency in the Care of an Infant with Respiratory Distress – Mapped to EM Milestones

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Introduction: Competency based assessment (CBA) for the care of critically ill children in the clinical setting is challenging. A simulated patient experience allows faculty to assess clinical skills through a standardized case designed for residents to demonstrate diverse skills over a wide range of complexity.

Educational Objectives:

1. Develop CBA linked to the EM Milestones for the evaluation and management of an infant with respiratory distress
2. Create a standardized simulation scenario with enough complexity to allow residents to demonstrate skills across a range of Milestone competencies and levels

Curriculum design: Faculty developed a scenario of an infant with respiratory failure due to pertussis, complex enough to perform skills at Levels 1-4 across 8 milestones. A CBA tool was developed with case-specific criteria within the domains of these milestones: emergency stabilization, performance of focused physical exam, diagnostic studies, diagnosis, pharmacotherapy, observation and reassessment, airway management, and team management.

Residents were paired and assisted by a confederate nurse. Teams had 15 minutes to manage the simulated patient and were assessed by two faculty members in real time. Final ratings were determined through a consensus process.

Impact/Effectiveness: All 36 residents were assessed with this case during their annual OSCE. Most residents performed at their expected level for year of training with a few high and low scorers in each PGY level.

The standardized case with case-specific descriptors allowed faculty to efficiently evaluate performance of these critical skills that would be challenging to assess in the clinical setting. Communication and thought process was more evident because residents were assessed in teams. Creating a structured debriefing to explore underlying decision-making skills and management choices may have provided additional input for level of competency.