Exploring the Relationship between Preceptor Ratings and EPA Entrustment

P. Basehore EdD, MPH, FNAOME; G. Scott DO, DPM, FAOCP; S. Wang, PhD

Abstract

Core EPAs provide a framework for evaluating student competence, yet the relationship between work-place based performance and level of trust at the undergraduate level is not well understood. COMs are faced with the challenge of creating EPA-based assessment tools to measure student performance that translates into level of entrustment. The purpose of this project was to explore the relationship between preceptor ratings of student’s clinical performance (Competencies) on a behaviorally-anchored scale (Unacceptable to Advanced) with an entrustment scale adapted from the work of Chen et al. (2015). The instrument was developed based upon findings in the literature and expert consensus.

Methodology

Preceptor ratings of MS3 students (n=183) on competency-based skills (15 items) and 13 EPAs were collected. Correlations between preceptors’ entrustment on 5 of the 13 EPAs and their ratings on related competency items were examined across and within 9 core clerkships.

Findings and Conclusions

Overall, Preceptors’ entrustment of students had moderate to strong correlations with their ratings of corresponding competencies.

- Across clerkships (Table 1), students’ average rating on the five competency items and Patient Care domain strongly correlate with preceptors’ entrustment on the five corresponding EPAs.
- Within each clerkship (Table 2), the correlations ranged from small to strong, with OB/GYN generally having small correlations, which may result from different standards and expectations of different clerkships.
- Across clerkships (Table 3), preceptors entrusted students at the level of direct supervision when they rated students’ corresponding competency as “(4) Competent” or “(5) Approaching advanced”; entrusted students with no supervision (level 5) only when students were “(5) Approaching advanced” or “(6) Advanced”.

References:
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). Osteopathic considerations for core entrustable professional activities (EPAs) for entering residency. April 2016
Chen HC, vandenBroek WE, and tenCate O. The case for use of entrustable professional activities in undergraduate medical education. Acad Med. 2015 Apr;90(4):431-6.