

# Clinical Neurophysiology Milestones

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education



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## **Clinical Neurophysiology Milestones**

The Milestones are designed only for use in evaluation of fellows in the context of their participation in ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship programs. The Milestones provide a framework for the assessment of the development of the fellow in key dimensions of the elements of physician competence in a specialty or subspecialty. They neither represent the entirety of the dimensions of the six domains of physician competency, nor are they designed to be relevant in any other context.

#### **Clinical Neurophysiology Milestones Work Group**

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American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists

American Osteopathic Association

**Review Committee for Neurology** 

### **Understanding Milestone Levels and Reporting**

This document presents the Milestones, which programs use in a semi-annual review of fellow performance, and then report to the ACGME. Milestones are knowledge, skills, attitudes, and other attributes for each of the ACGME Competencies organized in a developmental framework. The narrative descriptions are targets for resident/fellow performance throughout their educational program.

Milestones are arranged into levels. Tracking from Level 1 to Level 5 is synonymous with moving from novice to expert fellow in the specialty or subspecialty. For each reporting period, the Clinical Competency Committee will review the completed evaluations to select the milestone levels that best describe each learner's current performance, abilities, and attributes for each subcompetency.

These levels *do not* correspond with post-graduate year of education. Depending on previous experience, a junior fellow may achieve higher levels early in his/her educational program just as a senior fellow may be at a lower level later in his/her educational program. There is no predetermined timing for a resident to attain any particular level. Fellows may also regress in achievement of their milestones. This may happen for many reasons, such as over scoring in a previous review, a disjointed experience in a particular procedure, or a significant act by the fellow.

Selection of a level implies the fellow substantially demonstrates the milestones in that level, as well as those in lower levels (see the diagram on page iv).

#### **Additional Notes**

Level 4 is designed as a graduation *goal* but *does not* represent a graduation *requirement*. Making decisions about readiness for graduation and unsupervised practice is the purview of the program director. Furthermore, Milestones 2.0 include revisions and changes that preclude using Milestones as a sole assessment in high-stakes decisions (i.e., determination of eligibility for certification or credentialing). Level 5 is designed to represent an expert fellow whose achievements in a subcompetency are greater than the expectation. Milestones are primarily designed for formative, developmental purposes to support continuous quality improvement for individual learners, education programs, and the specialty. The ACGME and its partners will continue to evaluate and perform research on the Milestones to assess their impact and value.

Some milestone descriptions include statements about performing independently. These activities must occur in conformity to ACGME supervision guidelines as described in the Program Requirements, as well as to institutional and program policies. For example, a fellow who performs a procedure independently must, at a minimum, be supervised through oversight.

A Supplemental Guide is also available to provide the intent of each subcompetency, examples for each level, assessment methods or tools, and other available resources. The Supplemental Guide, like examples contained within the Milestones, is designed only to assist the program director and Clinical Competency Committee and is not meant to demonstrate any required element or outcome.

Supplemental Guides and other resources are available on the Milestones page of each specialty section of the ACGME website. On <u>www.acgme.org</u>, choose the applicable specialty under the "Specialties" menu, then select the "Milestones" link in the lower navigation bar.

The diagram below presents an example set of milestones for one subcompetency in the same format as the ACGME Report Worksheet. For each reporting period, a fellow's performance on the milestones for each subcompetency will be indicated by selecting the level of milestones that best describes that fellow's performance in relation to those milestones.

Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of commonly reported patient safety events	Identifies system factors that lead to patient safety events	Participates in analysis of patient safety events	Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies	Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems	Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and families	Discloses patient safety events to patients and families	Role models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events
Comments: Not Ye   Selecting a response box in the middle of a level implies that milestones in that level and in lower levels have been substantially demonstrated. Selecting a response box on between levels indicates that in lower levels have been substantially milestones in the higher level				lestones antially

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Patient Care 1: History					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Obtains a basic neurologic history	Obtains, communicates, and documents a focused and relevant history, including collateral information as appropriate	Obtains a focused history sufficient to guide subsequent neurophysiologic investigation	Consistently obtains a focused history to guide hypothesis-driven neurophysiologic investigation	Serves as a role model in obtaining a hypothesis- driven neurophysiologic investigation	
Comments:			Not Yet Co Not Yet As	ompleted Level 1	

Patient Care 2: Neurological Exam					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Performs a basic neurological exam	Performs, communicates, and documents a neurological exam incorporating additional relevant maneuvers	Performs, communicates, and documents a focused neurological examination sufficient to guide subsequent neurophysiologic investigation	Consistently obtains a focused neurological examination to guide hypothesis-driven neurophysiologic investigation	Serves as a role model in performing a focused neurological examination to guide hypothesis- driven neurophysiologic investigation	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Patient Care 3: Electroencephalogram (EEG)				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Describes normal EEG features of awake and sleep states and common EEG artifacts	Interprets common EEG abnormalities	Interprets common normal variants and abnormal EEG patterns	Efficiently interprets EEG findings, including uncommon normal variants and abnormal EEG patterns	Mentors others in interpreting EEG findings in children and adults
Identifies the elements of a routine EEG report	Generates a routine normal EEG report	Generates an abnormal EEG report	Efficiently generates normal and complex reports of continuous video EEG	Utilizes advanced analytic techniques to efficiently and accurately generate reports on continuous video EEG studies
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Patient Care 4: Nerve Co				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Applies principles of electrical safety to the performance of NCS	Performs common motor and sensory NCS and late responses	Performs neuromuscular junction testing	Performs cranial nerve testing and uncommon motor and sensory NCS	Performs special NCS procedures
Identifies the elements of a routine NCS report	Interprets common motor and sensory abnormalities and generates a report	Interprets uncommon motor and sensory abnormalities, as well as common anatomical variants in the interpretation of NCS and generates a report	Efficiently interprets and generates a detailed report of complex nerve conduction study findings	Mentor others in the interpretation and documentation of NCS
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable				

Patient Care 5: Needle EMG				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies technical artifacts in the interpretation of EMG	Formulates basic EMG plan for common clinical presentations	Formulates EMG plan for uncommon/atypical clinical presentations	Actively interprets EMG findings "in real time" and adjusts EMG plan in accordance	Serves as a mentor in the planning of EMG studies
Applies knowledge of nerve and muscle anatomy in the performance of EMG and applies principles of electrical safety to the performance of EMG	Performs and interprets EMG of commonly sampled muscles, recognizing common EMG findings	Performs and interprets EMG of uncommonly sampled muscles, including cranial nerve innervated muscles	Interprets uncommon EMG findings	Performs and interprets special EMG procedures (e.g., single fiber EMG, quantitative EMG studies)
Identifies the elements of an EMG report	Generates a normal report for an EMG/NCS study	Generates a report for common normal and abnormal findings of an EMG/NCS study	Generates a report for uncommon normal and abnormal findings of an EMG/NCS study	Serves as a mentor in generation of EMG reports
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Patient Care 6: Intra-operative Monitoring (IOM)				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Describes normal waveforms related to commonly performed IOM studies	Correlates normal waveforms with associated anatomic structures and physiologic phenomena	Interprets common normal and abnormal findings in IOM, including artifacts	Interprets uncommon findings in IOM studies	Serves as a mentor in interpretation of IOM studies
Identifies the basic elements of the IOM report	Generates a basic normal IOM report	Provides timely feedback to surgeons with support and generates written report	Provides timely feedback to surgeons independently, and generates written report	Serves as a mentor in communication with surgeons during IOM studies and generating a written report
	Orders and utilizes appropriate basic procedures in patients undergoing IOM	Orders appropriate IOM in cases of moderate complexity	Orders and utilizes appropriate IOM in cases of high complexity	Role models the ordering and utilization of appropriate IOM
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable				

Patient Care 7: Evoked Potential (EP)					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Describes normal waveforms related to commonly performed EP studies	Describes normal waveforms related to commonly performed EP studies and correlates normal waveforms with associated anatomic structures and physiologic phenomena	Interprets common findings of clinical significance associated with EP studies	Interprets uncommon findings of clinical significance during EP studies	Serves as a mentor for interpretation of EP studies	
Identifies the basic elements of the EP study report	Generates a basic normal report	Generates a report of common abnormal EP studies	Generates a report of uncommon EP studies	Role models in the creation of EP reports	
	Orders and utilizes appropriate basic procedures in patients undergoing EP studies	Orders and utilizes appropriate EP studies in cases of moderate complexity	Orders and utilizes appropriate EP studies in cases of high complexity	Role models the ordering and utilization of appropriate EP studies	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Patient Care 8: Polysomnography					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies the technical aspects of polysomnograph/HST	Describes normal neurophysiologic features of sleep stages	Interprets and reports polysomnographic features of common sleep disorders	Interprets and reports polysomnographic features of uncommon sleep disorders	Mentors others in the interpretation and reporting of PSG	
Comments:			Not Yet C Not Yet A	ompleted Level 1	

Patient Care 9: Telemedicine				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies the required components for remote neurophysiologic monitoring	Identifies appropriate use settings for remote neurophysiologic monitoring	Demonstrates use of digital or remote monitoring to support patient management in clinical neurophysiology settings	Utilizes digital and remote monitoring data to optimize the care of patients in clinical neurophysiology settings	Innovates and leads in the use of emerging remote monitoring technologies in clinical neurophysiology settings
Identifies the required components of a telehealth visit	Identifies clinical situations that can be managed through a telehealth visit	Initiates and performs a complete telehealth visit	Utilizes telehealth visits for complex patient management	Innovates and leads in the use of telehealth technologies in the delivery of patient care
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Accurately localizes lesions to specific regions of the nervous system	Demonstrates knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology relevant to performing and interpreting common neurophysiologic studies	Demonstrates knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology relevant to performing and interpreting uncommon neurophysiologic studies	Consistently demonstrates sophisticated and detailed knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology relevant to performing and interpreting complex neurophysiologic studies	Teaches other learners neuroanatomy relevant to performing and interpreting neurophysiologic studies

Medical Knowledge 2: Neuromuscular (NM) Disorders					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Explains typical presentations of common NM disorders (based on knowledge of anatomy of the NMJ	Explains atypical presentations of commonly encountered NM disorders	Demonstrates basic knowledge of neurophysiologic findings in common and uncommon neuromuscular disorders	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of neurophysiologic findings in common and uncommon neuromuscular disorders	Engages in scholarly activity related to neurophysiologic findings in neuromuscular disorders	
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable					

Medical Knowledge 3: E	oilepsy				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates basic knowledge of common types of seizures and epilepsy syndromes	Demonstrates basic knowledge of uncommon types of seizures and epilepsy syndromes as well as demonstrates an ability to differentiate epileptic seizures from other paroxysmal disorders	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of clinical, findings seen in common and uncommon types of seizures and epilepsy syndromes, as well as the ability to localize and lateralize seizure foci based on reported seizure semiology	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of clinical findings, and typical EEG findings seen in common and uncommon seizures and epilepsy syndromes	Engages in scholarly activity related to epileptic seizures and/or epilepsy syndromes	
Demonstrates basic knowledge related to the medical management of epilepsy	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of common anti-seizure medications (ASM)	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of uncommon ASMs	Demonstrates knowledge of advanced treatment options for medically refractory epilepsy	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of advanced treatment options for medically refractory epilepsy	
Comments:			Not Yet C Not Yet A	ompleted Level 1	

#### Version 2

Medical Knowledge 4: S	leep Disorders			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes clinical features of common sleep disorders	Recognizes the indications for use of different sleep study modalities	Describes clinical and neurophysiologic features of common sleep disorders	Describes clinical and neurophysiologic features of uncommon sleep disorders	Engages in scholarly activity related to sleep disorders
Comments:			Not Yet C Not Applic	ompleted Level 1

Medical Knowledge 5: El	P/IOM				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Describes basic knowledge of the fundamental neurophysi ologic principles of EP and/or IOM	Demonstrates advanced knowledge of the fundamental neurophysiol ogic principles of EP and/or IOM	Demonstrates basic knowledge of the technical aspects of EP and/or IOM	Demonstrates detailed knowledge of the technical aspects of EP and/or IOM studies	Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental neurophysiologic principles and technical aspects of EP and/or IOM studies	
Describes common indications for IOM and/or EP studies	Describes basic procedures utilized in IOM and/or EP and when studies are clinically appropriate	Describes normal patterns of EP and/or IOM studies	Describes atypical findings of clinical significance associated with EP and/or IOM studies	Describes uncommon findings of clinical significance during IOM and/or EP studies	
Comments:				ompleted Level 1	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety eventsRole models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events	
Demonstrates knowledge of commonly reported patient safety events	Identifies system factors that lead to patient safety events	Participates in analysis of patient safety events	Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies		
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems	Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and families (actual or simulated)	Discloses patient safety events to patients and families (actual or simulated)		

Systems-Based Practice	2: Quality Improvement			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of basic quality improvement methodologies and metrics	Describes local quality improvement initiatives (e.g., community vaccination rate, infection rate, smoking cessation)	Participates in local quality improvement initiatives	Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project	Creates, implements, and assesses quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or community level
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of care coordination	Coordinates care of patients in routine clinical situations effectively using the roles of the interprofessional teams	Coordinates care of patients in complex clinical situations effectively using the roles of their interprofessional teams	Role models effective coordination of patient- centered care among different disciplines and specialties	Analyzes the process of care coordination and leads in the design and implementation of improvements
Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions of care and hand-offs	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in routine clinical situations	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in complex clinical situations	Role models and advocates for safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems, including outpatient settings	Improves quality of transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes
Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and disparities	Identifies specific population and community health needs and inequities for their local population	Uses local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community	Participates in changing and adapting practice to provide for the needs of specific populations	Leads innovations and advocates for populations and communities with health care inequities

Systems-Based Practice	4: Physician Role in Healtl	n Care Systems			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies key components of the complex health care system (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility, finance, personnel, technology)	Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts patient care	Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient, and effective patient care and transition of care			
Describes basic health payment systems (e.g., government, private, public, uninsured care) and practice models	Delivers care with consideration of each patient's payment model (e.g., insurance type)	Engages with patients in shared decision making, informed by each patient's payment models	Advocates for patient care needs (e.g., community resources, patient assistance resources) with consideration of the limitations of each patient's payment model	Participates in health policy advocacy activities	
Identifies basic knowledge domains for effective transition to practice	Describes core administrative knowledge needed for transition to practice	Demonstrates use of administrative knowledge required for transition to practice	Analyzes individual practice patterns and professional requirements for transition to practice	Educates others to prepare them for transition to practice	
Comments:			Not Yet C	Completed Level 1	

Practice-Based Learning	g and Improvement 1: Evid	ence -Based and Informed	Practice		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates how to access and use available evidence in patient care	Articulates clinical questions to guide search for evidence and elicits patient preferences and values in order to guide evidence-based care	Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patient preferences and values, to the care of patients	Critically appraises and applies evidence, even in the face of uncertainty, and interprets conflicting evidence to guide care, tailored to the individual patient	Coaches others to critically appraise and apply evidence for complex patients; and/or participates in the development of guidelines	
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1	

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Accepts responsibility for personal and professional development by establishing goals	Demonstrates openness to performance data (feedback and other input)	Seeks performance data sporadically, with adaptability and humility	Seeks performance data consistently	Role models seeking performance data with adaptability and humility	
Identifies the factors which contribute to gaps between expectations and actual performance	Analyzes and reflects on the factors which contribute to gaps between expectations and actual performance	Institutes behavioral changes to narrow the gaps between expectations and actual performance	Challenges assumptions and considers alternatives in narrowing the gaps between expectations and actual performance	Coaches others on reflective practice	
Actively seeks opportunities to improve	Designs and implements a learning plan, with prompting	Independently creates and implements a learning plan	Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and when necessary, improves it	Facilitates the design and implementation of learning plans for others	
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies and describes potential triggers for professionalism lapses and how to report	otential triggers for professional behavior in routine situations		Intervenes to prevent professionalism lapses in self and others Coaches others where their behavior fails meet professional expectations		
Demonstrates knowledge of ethical principles related to patient care	Analyzes straightforward situations using ethical principles	Analyzes complex situations using ethical principles	Recognizes and uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas as needed	Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution	

Professionalism 2: Acco	untability/Conscientiousne	SS			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Takes responsibility for failure to complete tasks and responsibilities, identifies potential contributing factors, and describes strategies for ensuring timely task completion in the future	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in routine situations	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in complex or stressful situations	Manages situations that may impact others' ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that impact completion of tasks	
Responds promptly to requests or reminders to complete tasks and responsibilities	Recognizes situations that may impact own ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Proactively implements strategies to ensure that the needs of patients, teams, and systems are met	Role models the strategies to ensure that the needs of patients, teams, and systems are met	Coaches others to develop strategies to ensure that the needs of patients, teams, and systems are met	
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1	

Level 1	Level 2		Level 3			Level 4		Level 5		
Recognizes status of personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Independently recognizes status of personal and professional well-being		a plan to	istance, propo promote and professio g		a plan to promote personal and professional well-being		emotional r limitations i skills do no	Coaches others when emotional responses or limitations in knowledge/ skills do not meet professional expectations	
Recognizes limits in knowledge/skills, with assistance		ntly recognizes owledge/skills			ses	-				

This subcompetency is not intended to evaluate a fellow's well-being, but to ensure each fellow has the fundamental knowledge of factors that impact well-being, the mechanisms by which those factors impact well-being, and available resources and tools to improve well-being.

and establishes rapport relationship straightforw	ard using active	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient encounters	Easily establishes therapeutic relationships, with attention to patient/family concerns and context, regardless of complexity	Mentors others in situational awareness an critical self-reflection to consistently develop positive therapeutic relationships
Identifies the need to Communica				
individualizecompassioncommunicationpatient/famistrategies based onexpectationspatient/familyunderstandiexpectations and fund ofclinical situalknowledge	ately with ly, clarifying s and verifying ng of the	Communicates medical information in the context of patient/family values, uncertainty and conflict	Uses shared decision making to align patient/family values, goals, and preferences with treatment options	Role models shared decision making in the context of patient/family values, uncertainty, and conflict
Comments:				

#### Version 2

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 2: Barrier and Bias Mitigation				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies common barriers to effective patient care (e.g., language, disability)	Identifies complex barriers to effective patient care (e.g. health literacy, cultural)	Recognizes personal biases and mitigates barriers to optimize patient care, when prompted	Recognizes personal biases and proactively mitigates barriers to optimize patient care	Mentors others on recognition of bias and mitigation of barriers to optimize patient care
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 3: Patient and Family Education				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes link between patient outcomes and education	Describes methods for effective patient education	Educates patients effectively in straightforward situations, including eliciting understanding of information provided	Educates patients effectively in complex situations	Educates patients in self- advocacy, community outreach, and activism
Comments: Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 4: Interprofessional and Team Communication				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Uses language that values all members of the health care team	Communicates information effectively with all members of the health care team	Uses active listening to adapt communication style to fit team needs	Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team to optimize patient care	Role models flexible communication strategies that value input from all health care team members, resolving conflict when needed
Understands the importance of feedback	Solicits feedback on performance as a member of the health care team	Communicates concerns and provides feedback to peers and learners	Communicates feedback and constructive criticism to superiors	Facilitates regular health care team-based feedback in complex situations
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Accurately records information in the patient record as required by institutional policy	Demonstrates organized diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the patient record	Concisely reports diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning in the patient record	Communicates clearly, concisely, timely, and in an organized written form, including anticipatory guidance	Models feedback to improve others' written communication
Describes appropriate use of documentation shortcuts as required by institutional policy	Demonstrates accurate, timely, and appropriate use of documentation shortcuts in formats specified by institutional policy	Appropriately selects direct (e.g., telephone, in- person) and indirect (e.g. progress notes, text messages) forms of communication based on context	Achieves written or verbal communication (patient notes, email, etc.) that streamlines and enhances patient care.	Achieves written or verba communication (patient notes, email, etc.) that serves as an example for others to follow