Supplemental Guide: Infectious Disease

April 2021
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This document provides additional guidance and examples for the Infectious Disease Milestones. This is not designed to indicate any specific requirements for each level, but to provide insight into the thinking of the Milestone Work Group.

Included in this document is the intent of each Milestone and examples of what a Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) might expect to be observed/assessed at each level. Also included are suggested assessment models and tools for each subcompetency, references, and other useful information.

Review this guide with the CCC and faculty members. As the program develops a shared mental model of the Milestones, consider creating an individualized guide (Supplemental Guide Template available) with institution/program-specific examples, assessment tools used by the program, and curricular components.

Additional tools and references, including the Milestones Guidebook, Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook, and Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows, are available on the Resources page of the Milestones section of the ACGME website.
## Patient Care 1: History and Physical Examination

**Overall Intent:** To obtain an appropriate history and perform a comprehensive and targeted physical exam to provide accurate diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Acquires a foundational history for common infectious diseases and syndromes Performs a foundational physical examination</td>
<td>● Obtains a thorough yet concise internal medicine history ● Performs a thorough yet concise internal medicine physical exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong> Acquires a complete history, including specific host and environmental factors Performs an examination that elicits common or straightforward infectious diseases and syndromes</td>
<td>● Reports on recent travel abroad in a patient with fever and a rash ● Examines all central line sites in an intensive care unit (ICU) patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong> Acquires a detailed history incorporating pertinent supplemental information Performs an examination that elicits uncommon or complicated infectious diseases and syndromes</td>
<td>● Calls outside laboratory to obtain updated culture data for a transferred patient ● Comments on presence or absence of Osler’s nodes on a patient with bloodstream infection, prompting concern for endocarditis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong> Acquires a tailored history that incorporates epidemiology, past clinical data, and nuances specific for suspected pathogens or syndromes Performs a tailored examination that elicits subtle findings of infectious diseases and syndromes</td>
<td>● In a case of suspected culture-negative endocarditis, reviews outside hospital medical records in detail to determine if antibiotics were administered prior to obtaining cultures ● Notices subtle skin findings in a patient with neutropenic fever, prompting consideration for disseminated fungal infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong> Serves as a role model in obtaining a history that identifies subtle details and resolves ambiguity in the patient history Serves as a role model who has mastered the art of examination that helps in making a definitive diagnosis</td>
<td>● Conducts a seminar with junior colleagues focused on subtle history and physical exam findings in patients with uncommon zoonoses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Models or Tools**

- Assessment of case conference presentations
- Direct observation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Mapping</th>
<th>Notes or Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● End-of-rotation evaluations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Medical record (chart) audit</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Multisource feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Reflection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Standardized patients</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Patient Care 2: Management of Patients with Possible and Proven Infectious Diseases

**Overall Intent:** To develop comprehensive management plans for patients with infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Develops an initial assessment for patients with low-complexity conditions</td>
<td>● Diagnoses cellulitis while recognizing other possible causes of erythema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong> Develops initial and follow-up management plans for patients with low-complexity conditions</td>
<td>● In a patient with purulent cellulitis and no methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) risk factors, recommends intravenous (IV) cefazolin followed by an oral option for an appropriate duration with no need for infectious diseases follow-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong> Develops an initial and follow-up plan for patients with moderate-complexity conditions and adjusts the plan over the course of clinical care</td>
<td>● Recommends vancomycin with weekly drug monitoring in a patient with MRSA bacteremia and changes to daptomycin (or other appropriate anti-MRSA drug) in response to drug-induced leukopenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong> Develops a comprehensive management plan, including contingency plans for patients with complex conditions</td>
<td>● Initiates amphotericin B in a patient with disseminated histoplasmosis with the contingency plan to switch to itraconazole in the event of acute kidney injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong> Develops customized management plans for all patients, regardless of the complexity of the condition, and incorporating diagnostic uncertainty and cost effectiveness</td>
<td>● For a patient living with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) who presents with a ring-enhancing lesion in the brain, recommends appropriate empiric treatment for toxoplasmosis; recommends trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole for treatment if pyrimethamine cannot be obtained at a reasonable price due to market monopoly and recent price increase; has a contingency plan to evaluate for central nervous system lymphoma if lesion does not improve on imaging after two weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment Models or Tools

- Assessment of case conference presentations
- Clinical reasoning exercises
- Direct observation
- E-modules
- End-of-rotation evaluations
- Medical record (chart) audit
- Multisource feedback
- Multiple choice questions
- Reflection
- Standardized patients

### Curriculum Mapping

- 

### Notes or Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Respectfully responds to a consultation request and conveys recommendations, with supervision</td>
<td>• Receives consult for patient about to leave against medical advice and discusses with attending who helps fellow provide immediate recommendations to the consulting service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes consult acuity and urgency, with supervision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong> Identifies and clarifies the clinical questions and recommendations for the consultation</td>
<td>• Fellow calls resident to clarify the clinical question when the initial consult question from another member of the primary team is not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes consult acuity and urgency independently</td>
<td>• Recognizes urgency of a septic patient in ICU not responding to antibiotics and notifies attending immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong> Seeks and integrates input from different members of the health care team and provides recommendations to the primary team in a clear and timely manner</td>
<td>• Confirms dose adjustment of vancomycin with pharmacist and conveys this to team prior to the next dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritizes workflow in response to consult acuity and urgency</td>
<td>• When paged in the middle of rounds recommends the infectious disease team immediately go to the emergency department to see a returning traveler with fever and rash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong> Provides comprehensive and prioritized recommendations, including assessment and rationale to all necessary health care team members</td>
<td>• Provides recommendations on type of testing needed on lymph node biopsy followed by empiric antibiotic treatment, and explains clinical decision to team on rounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilizes resources to provide care in an urgent situation</td>
<td>• Assists the primary service in communicating to a surgical service the need for urgent evaluation in a patient with necrotizing fasciitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong> Leads the health care team in the provision of effective consultative services across the spectrum of disease complexity and acuity</td>
<td>• When called about a case of severe malaria overnight, calls pharmacy and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide appropriate treatment, and communicates with the admitting team to provide a contingency plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment Models or Tools</strong></td>
<td>• Assessment of case conference presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Direct observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Mapping</td>
<td>Notes or Resources</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Medical Knowledge 1: Diagnostic Reasoning

**Overall Intent:** To incorporate patient-specific factors in deciding upon diagnostic strategies; recognize progressively more complex and rare diagnoses in appropriate patients and sources of diagnostic error

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Integrates patient-specific information to generate a limited differential diagnosis | ● Applies travel history, environmental exposures, medications, and immune status to prioritize the differential diagnosis  
● Incorporates sexual history for a patient with proctocolitis  |
| **Level 2** Provides a limited prioritized differential diagnosis using supporting rationale | ● Includes pneumocystis pneumonia, tuberculosis, cryptococcus and endemic mycoses on the differential diagnosis for a patient with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS presenting with subacute cough and a CD4 cell count (i.e., T cell count) less than 100 cells/mm³  
● Recognizes that tuberculosis, strongyloidiasis, and other chronic infections can be an important part of the differential diagnosis in patients who have previously lived outside the US in areas endemic for these infections |
| **Level 3** Formulates a prioritized differential diagnosis; demonstrates the ability to modify a diagnosis based on a patient’s clinical course and additional data | ● Places pneumocystis pneumonia lower on the differential diagnosis or a patient with advanced HIV (CD4 less than 100 cells/mm³) and subacute cough due to the presence of pleural effusions and lymphadenopathy on chest imaging, and a negative B-D-glucan  
● Recognizes that an invasive fungal infection has moved higher on the differential diagnosis in a patient with fever and neutropenia who has not defervesced within four to seven days, despite appropriate broad-spectrum antibacterials |
| **Level 4** Formulates a differential diagnosis to include atypical presentations and uncommon disorders; recognizes sources of diagnostic error | ● In a stem cell transplant recipient with fever and respiratory failure, considers opportunistic infections, drug reactions, graft versus host disease (GvHD) and other non-infectious complications in formulating the differential diagnosis; considers strongyloloides hyperinfection syndrome in such a patient with possible prior exposure to strongyloidiasis, despite negative post-transplant serology for this pathogen  
● Understands the different types of individual and system factors that lead to diagnostic errors |
| **Level 5** Formulates a differential diagnosis to include newly recognized and emerging conditions | ● Includes COVID-19 in the differential diagnosis for a patient with fever and unexplained pulmonary embolism  
● Includes Zika virus infection in the differential diagnosis for a returning traveler from an endemic region with fever and arthralgias  
● Includes *Candida auris* in the differential diagnosis for a patient with candidemia initially reported as *Candida haemulonii* by the lab |

**Assessment Models or Tools**  
● Assessment of case conference presentations  
● Direct observation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Mapping</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple choice questions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Medical Knowledge 2: Diagnostic Evaluation

**Overall Intent:** To understand and apply appropriate diagnostic evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates foundational knowledge of diagnostic evaluation for pathogens | ● Recognizes polymerase chain reaction testing is used to detect some viruses  
● Recognizes blood cultures should be collected prior to antibiotic administration  
● Understands that a respiratory multiplex polymerase chain reaction test does not provide antimicrobial susceptibility information  
Demonstrates foundational knowledge of diagnostic evaluation for clinical syndromes  
● Recognizes what tests to order from cerebrospinal fluid to help diagnose meningoencephalitis  
● Understands the use and limitations of a white blood cell count when evaluating for infections |
| **Level 2** Applies knowledge of diagnostic evaluation for common pathogens | ● Justifies the need for serial blood cultures in the management of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia  
● Identifies the importance of both direct and indirect serologic testing to diagnose and stage syphilis  
● Identifies that a polymerase chain reaction result for mecA indicates methicillin resistance  
Applies knowledge of indications for diagnostic evaluation for common clinical syndromes  
● Rationalizes the need for an ophthalmology consult for patients with candidemia  
● Appropriately recommends when echocardiography is needed in the setting of fever of unknown origin |
| **Level 3** Applies knowledge of indications for diagnostic evaluation of uncommon pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, and therapeutic drug monitoring | ● Recognizes serology is used to support a diagnosis of suspected brucellosis  
● Understands drug levels are indicated to establish therapeutic concentrations in patients being treated with voriconazole for invasive aspergillosis  
Applies diagnostic testing in consideration of risks, benefits, and consequences for clinical syndromes  
● Discusses risks and benefits of performing a transesophageal echo in a patient with staphylococcal bacteremia and history of prior esophageal perforation |
| **Level 4** Interprets diagnostic evaluations for pathogens and clinical syndromes, considering performance characteristics, limitations, and nuances | ● Understands that a negative histoplasma urine antigen has different implications for diagnosis of pulmonary versus disseminated histoplasmosis  
● Can discuss positive predictive value of a polymerase chain reaction for *Clostridioides difficile*  
● Understands how to apply interferon gamma release assays in the evaluation for tuberculosis exposure |
| Level 5 *Teaches others the nuances of directed diagnostic evaluation for pathogens and clinical syndromes* | ● Teaches diagnostic evaluation on rounds to peers, medical students, interprofessional health team members  
● Lectures medical students, residents, peers about diagnostic evaluation  
● Teaches diagnostic evaluation when providing consultation recommendations |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment Models or Tools** | ● Assessment of case conference presentations  
● Direct observation  
● E-modules  
● End-of-rotation evaluations  
● IDSA in-training examination  
● Medical record (chart) audit  
● Multisource feedback  
● Multiple choice questions  
● Reflection |
| **Curriculum Mapping** | ● |
● Infectious Diseases Society of America. IDSA Practice Guidelines.  
### Medical Knowledge 3: Treatment and Therapeutics including Anti-Infectives, Immunoprophylaxis, and Adjunctive Therapies

**Overall Intent:** To develop comprehensive treatment plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates foundational knowledge of common anti-infectives, including spectrum of activity, contraindications, and clinical indications | ● Recognizes vancomycin is a primary therapeutic option for the treatment of MRSA bacteremia  
● Recognizes penicillin is the drug of choice for the treatment of beta-hemolytic streptococci  
● Understands to give steroids before antibiotics for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* meningitis  
● Recognizes ertapenem does not have activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*  
● Understands to avoid use of Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) in a patient with sulfa allergies  
● Understands to avoid live-virus vaccines in immunocompromised patients |
| **Level 2** Demonstrates knowledge of common anti-infectives, immunoprophylaxis, and adjunctive therapies, including dosing, monitoring, and adverse effects | ● Recognizes fluoroquinolones have a black box warning for causing tendinopathy  
● Recognizes need for therapeutic drug monitoring for certain antibiotics, such as vancomycin  
● Dose-adjusts renally-cleared antibiotics based on creatinine clearance  
● Recognizes when antimicrobial prophylaxis is indicated for various states of immunosuppression |
| **Level 3** Demonstrates knowledge of common anti-infectives, immunoprophylaxis, and adjunctive therapies, including resistance mechanisms, drug interactions, and relative effectiveness | ● Recognizes that divalent cations impair the absorption of oral fluoroquinolones  
● Recognizes the interaction between linezolid and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and potential risk of serotonin syndrome  
● Recognizes the need to adjust dosing regimens based on certain drug-drug interactions  
● Prescribes integrase inhibitor-based antiretroviral regimens instead of protease inhibitor-based regimens because of improved efficacy and tolerability compared to other regimens  
● Uses the HIV genotype result to help guide antiretroviral selection in patients who have resistance |
| **Level 4** Demonstrates knowledge of uncommon anti-infectives, immunoprophylaxis, and adjunctive therapies, including dosing, monitoring, resistance mechanisms, drug interactions, adverse effects, and relative effectiveness | ● Familiar with recently Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved antibiotic options for multidrug-resistant infections  
● Recognizes unique adverse effects of recently approved FDA-approved drugs  
● Understands the rationale for continuous IV infusions of beta-lactams as related to the property of time-dependent killing  
● Uses a carbapenem when expression of the CTX-M gene in an *E. coli* is identified from a blood culture |
| **Level 5** Teaches others the nuances of anti-infectives, immunoprophylaxis, and adjunctive therapies | ● In a teaching session to the residents, links the class and mechanism of action of a drug to its antimicrobial effect, spectrum of activity, toxicities, and microbial mechanisms that confer resistance to the drug |
- Delivers a teaching session to the clinic nurses on the subtleties of which vaccines can be co-administered versus those that have to be spaced, and how far apart in time
- Teaches the transplant team that close monitoring and dose adjustments in immunosuppression will be required when stopping voriconazole

### Assessment Models or Tools
- Assessment of case conference presentations
- Direct observation
- E-modules
- End-of-rotation evaluations
- IDSA in-training examination
- Medical record (chart) audit
- Multisource feedback
- Multiple choice questions
- Reflection

### Curriculum Mapping

### Notes or Resources
## Medical Knowledge 4: Infection Control/Prevention, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Epidemiology

**Overall Intent:** To understand and apply principles of infection control/prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, and epidemiology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates foundational knowledge of the principles of infection prevention | ● Understands the difference between droplet and airborne precautions  
● Recognizes that overuse of antimicrobials leads to unnecessary toxicity and resistance  
● Dons and doffs personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately and safely |
| Demonstrates foundational knowledge of the principles of antimicrobial stewardship |  |
| **Level 2** Implements infection prevention measures for common situations | ● Recommends droplet precautions in cases of suspected *Neisseria meningitidis* meningitis  
● Recommends airborne precautions in patients with suspected tuberculosis  
● Recommends de-escalation from piperacillin-tazobactam to cefazolin in patients with methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) bacteremia  
● Recommends cessation of antimicrobials in patients with asymptomatic bacteriuria |
| Implements antimicrobial stewardship practices for common situations |  |
| Demonstrates basic knowledge of the principles of epidemiology | ● Understands the definition of an outbreak  
● Understands a case-control study can be used in outbreak investigations |
| **Level 3** Implements infection prevention measures for uncommon situations | ● Notifies laboratory personnel when sending respiratory samples in suspected coccidioidomycosis evaluations  
● Discusses with primary teams the nuances of antimicrobial prescribing in patients with terminal illnesses  
● Notifies infection preventionist of cases of hospital-acquired suppurative thrombophlebitis  
● Notifies local public health department of cases of suspected Zika virus |
| Implements antimicrobial stewardship practices for uncommon situations |  |
| Practices the basic principles of epidemiology, including identifying and responding to common epidemiological events |  |
| **Level 4** Teaches infection prevention practices to health care providers, patients, and the medical community | ● Teaches interdisciplinary team members about limited efficacy of hand sanitizer against spores  
● Teaches medical students not to start antibiotics for asymptomatic bacteriuria  
● Teaches residents about global impact of diarrhea on pediatric mortality |
<p>| Teaches health care providers, patients, and the medical community antimicrobial stewardship practices |  |
| Teaches on the epidemiological impact of infectious diseases on population health |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Demonstrates innovation and leadership in infection prevention practices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Serves as an active member of hospital infection prevention or antimicrobial stewardship committees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Leads a stewardship project evaluating changes in prescribing practices following implementation of polymerase chain reaction panel for meningitis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Leads an investigation of a cluster of Stenotrophomonas pneumonia infections in the ICU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates innovation and leadership in antimicrobial stewardship practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leads a team in identifying and responding to epidemiological events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Models or Tools</td>
<td>● Assessment of case conference presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Direct observation</td>
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<td>● E-modules</td>
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<td>● End-of-rotation evaluations</td>
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<td>● IDSA in-training examination</td>
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<td>● Multiple choice questions</td>
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<td>● Reflection</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Simulation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum Mapping

Notes or Resources


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates basic knowledge of pathophysiological and foundational science pertaining to common infectious diseases and host response | - Recognizes humoral, cell-mediated, and innate immunity have a role in host response to infections  
- Recognizes vertebral osteomyelitis occurs predominantly through hematogenous spread |
| **Level 2** Demonstrates advanced knowledge of pathophysiological and foundational science concepts pertaining to common infectious diseases and host response | - Understands how impaired T cell function contributes to development of Pneumocystis pneumonia  
- Understands the role of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the pathophysiology of sepsis |
| **Level 3** Applies advanced knowledge of pathophysiological and foundational science concepts pertaining to common infectious diseases and host response | - Understands expanded diagnostic evaluation requirements for fever in the setting of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha inhibitor use  
- Understands the reason for prophylactic antifungals in patients with bone marrow transplants |
| **Level 4** Applies advanced knowledge of pathophysiological and foundational science concepts pertaining to uncommon infectious diseases and host response | - Describes the unique pathogen characteristics of *Plasmodium falciparum* that contribute to the development of cerebral malaria  
- Describes the appropriate immunization and antimicrobial prophylaxis in patients receiving eculizumab |
| **Level 5** Applies comprehensive knowledge of pathophysiology and foundational science pertaining to new and emerging infectious diseases and issues of host response | - Relates lessons learned from zoonotic crossover events during the SARS epidemic to novel emerging coronaviruses  
- Uses basic science literature to help develop or update protocols for diagnostics and treatments in novel infections or new resistant pathogens |
| **Assessment Models or Tools**                                           | - Assessment of case conference presentations  
- Direct observation  
- E-modules  
- End-of-rotation evaluations  
- IDSA in-training examination  
- Medical record (chart) audit  
- Multisource feedback  
- Multiple choice questions  
- Reflection |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly influenza virus data</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flu_usa.html">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flu_usa.html</a></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US influenza surveillance data</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flu_usa.html">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flu_usa.html</a></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References:**

# Medical Knowledge 6: Scholarly Activity

## Overall Intent:
To engage in and disseminate scholarly work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Identifies areas worthy of scholarly activity | - Recognizes gaps in currently published literature about infections in patients receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation treatment  
- Understands importance of conducting rigorous randomized control trials |
| **Level 2** Plans a scholarly activity | - Writes a protocol to address a research or clinical question  
- Successfully receives institutional review board (IRB) approval for a research study  
- Performs comprehensive review of the literature  
- Conducts a needs assessment for a quality improvement or educational project |
| **Level 3** Implements scholarly activity | - Performs retrospective chart review  
- Conducts statistical analysis on data  
- Develops a parasite curriculum for internal medicine residents rotating on the infectious disease service |
| **Level 4** Disseminates independent scholarly work, locally or regionally, that has generated new medical knowledge, educational programs, or process improvement | - Conducts teaching presentation at local institution  
- Presents abstract at regional infectious disease society meeting  
- Presents results of quality improvement project at institution patient safety conference |
| **Level 5** Disseminates independent scholarly work, nationally or internationally, that has generated new medical knowledge, educational programs, or process improvement | - Publishes research paper in peer-reviewed journal  
- Presents abstract at national meeting  
- Publishes curriculum on Med Ed Portal |

## Assessment Models or Tools
- Assessment of case conference presentations  
- Assessment of research development plan  
- Direct observation  
- Review of presentation or publication  
- Teaching evaluations

## Curriculum Mapping

## Notes or Resources
- Local graduate-level classes (biostatistics, epidemiology, etc)  
- Online modules
# Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety

**Overall Intent:** To engage in the analysis, prevention, and management of patient safety events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Identifies patient safety events and discloses them to leadership, patients, and/or patients’ family members | ● Understands patient misidentification or medication errors are serious patient safety events  
● Prevents administration of piperacillin-tazobactam in a patient with serious penicillin allergy  
● Describes how to report errors in own clinical environment  

Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events |
| **Level 2** Analyzes the factors that contribute to patient safety events | ● Identifies how lack of isolation signage and equipment may lead to increased infection rates  
● Reports empty hand sanitizer dispenser at clinical exam room to appropriate clinic leadership  
● Files a patient safety incident report in the hospital’s safety reporting system  

Reports patient safety events using the health system’s reporting mechanism |
| **Level 3** Offers prevention strategies to mitigate patient safety events | ● Actively participates in morbidity and mortality presentations  
● Independently confirms medication allergies during all patient encounters  
● Reviews creatinine clearance in each patient before prescribing renally-dosed antibiotics  

Offers prevention strategies to mitigate patient safety events |
| **Level 4** Participates in efforts to modify systems to prevent patient safety events | ● Leads implementation of an alert in the electronic health record (EHR) to notify physicians about an antibiotic allergy  
● Participates in a hospital’s hand hygiene campaign  

Participates in efforts to modify systems to prevent patient safety events |
| **Level 5** Leads efforts to modify systems to prevent patient safety events | ● Assumes a leadership role at the departmental or institutional level for patient safety  
● Conducts a simulation for disclosing patient safety events  
● Leads an infection prevention project to reduce transmission of *C. difficile* within the hospital  

Leads efforts to modify systems to prevent patient safety events |

**Assessment Models or Tools**  
● Assessment of case conference presentations  
● Direct observation  
● E-modules  
● End-of-rotation evaluations  
● Medical record (chart) audit  
● Multisource feedback  
● Multiple choice questions  
● Reflection  
● Simulation

**Curriculum Mapping**  
●
● Infection Prevention Manual/Guidelines for individual institution  
## Systems-Based Practice 2: Quality Improvement

**Overall Intent:** To identify quality improvement (QI) needs, and conduct QI interventions in the healthcare environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates basic knowledge of quality improvement methodologies and metrics | ● Describes the fishbone tool  
● Describes PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle approach to QI  
● Describes relevant QI metrics including hospital rates of central line-associated bloodstream infections, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, ventilator-associated events, etc. |
| **Level 2** Identifies opportunities for quality improvement projects | ● Uses patient panel management to identify patients with HIV who are not virologically suppressed and who would benefit from intensive adherence counseling and case management  
● Identifies opportunity for improving rates of hand hygiene among health care workers |
| **Level 3** Participates in quality improvement projects | ● Participates in a project to de-escalate inappropriate broad-spectrum antibiotics use  
● Participates in a project to increase adherence to guideline recommendations in patients with *S. aureus* bacteremia |
| **Level 4** Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project | ● Designs, implements and analyzes a QI project to improve human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates within the practice, including assessing the problem, articulating a broad goal, developing a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) objective plan, and monitoring progress and challenges |
| **Level 5** Leads quality improvement projects | ● Initiates and completes a QI project to improve county HPV vaccination rates in collaboration with the county health department, and shares results with stakeholders |

### Assessment Models or Tools
- Assessment of case conference presentations  
- Direct observation  
- E-modules  
- End-of-rotation evaluations  
- Multisource feedback  
- Multiple choice questions  
- Reflection  
- Review of quality improvement project  
- Simulation

### Curriculum Mapping
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### Notes or Resources
# Systems-Based Practice 3: Coordination and Transitions of Care

**Overall Intent:** To ensure the safe transition and coordination of care for patients across the entire health care system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions and coordination of care and hand-offs | • Understands the essential components of sign-out including patient identifiers, active issues and follow-up plan  
• Understands the importance of coordinating an interdisciplinary meeting with infectious diseases, cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, and internal medicine for a patient with endocarditis  
• Identifies that patients being discharged on intravenous antibiotics will need periodic laboratory monitoring, enrollment in an outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy program, and follow-up in the outpatient infectious diseases clinic |
| **Level 2** Performs safe and effective transitions and coordination of care and hand-offs in routine clinical situations | • Coordinates care with the infectious diseases clinic at the time of discharge from the hospital  
• Conveys pertinent clinical information to the next clinician assuming care of the patient  
• Obtains microbiology susceptibility results from the outside hospital from which a patient was transferred |
| **Level 3** Performs safe and effective transitions and coordination of care/hand-offs in complex clinical situations | • Works with the social worker to coordinate infectious disease care after discharge for a patient who is homeless  
• Conducts an interdisciplinary meeting between infectious diseases, cardiology, cardiac surgery, and internal medicine to coordinate a plan for a patient with endocarditis |
| **Level 4** Role models and advocates for safe and effective transitions and coordination of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems | • During inpatient rounds leads team members in approaching other clinicians to review cases/recommendations, and arranges radiology rounds for the team  
• Clarifies and explains to the primary medicine team that a patient with pulmonary tuberculosis must have established care and health department follow-up |
| **Level 5** Improves quality of transitions and coordination of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes | • Creates a new sign-out tool using information technology (IT) infrastructure  
• Develops a protocol to improve linkage and retention in care for patients with HIV  
• Pilots a new initiative involving a daily multidisciplinary huddle in the infectious diseases clinic to improve patient care |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

• Assessment of case conference presentations  
• Direct observation  
• E-modules  
• End-of-rotation evaluations  
• Medical record (chart) audit  
• Multisource feedback  
• Multiple choice questions
<table>
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<th>Curriculum Mapping</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Notes or Resources</th>
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</thead>
</table>
**Systems-Based Practice 4: Population Health**

**Overall Intent:** To identify and address health care disparities that impact patients with infectious diseases at the community level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and disparities | ● Understands that under-insured patients may be unable to afford many antimicrobial options  
● Understands the impact of social determinants on health outcomes |
| **Level 2** Identifies specific population and community health needs and inequities for the local population | ● Identifies the lack of access to infectious diseases experts in a community to be an important barrier to care  
● Identifies the increased risk of dissemination of coccidioidomycosis among certain racial groups  
● Identifies the higher prevalence of HIV acquisition among Black and Hispanic men who have sex with men (MSM)  
● Identifies low rates of shingles vaccination coverage in the local population |
| **Level 3** Identifies local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community | ● Links under-insured patients to federally qualified health centers after discharge  
● Identifies county health department sexually transmitted infection clinic as a resource for uninsured patients with gonorrhea infection  
● Works with clinic social worker to find resources in the community for substance use disorder treatment |
| **Level 4** Uses local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community | ● Enrolls uninsured patient in pharmaceutical-sponsored assistance program to allow access to expensive antimicrobial agents  
● Refers women living with HIV to local support group in the community |
| **Level 5** Leads innovations and advocates for populations and communities with health care inequities | ● Creates a transgender community advisory board to provide feedback to HIV clinic leadership on best practices for transgender-competent care |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

● Assessment of case conference presentations  
● Direct observation  
● E-modules  
● End-of-rotation evaluations  
● Medical record (chart) audit  
● Multisource feedback  
● Multiple choice questions  
● Reflection  
● Simulation

**Curriculum Mapping**

●
### Notes or Resources

# Systems-Based Practice 5: Physician Role in Health Care Systems

**Overall Intent:** To understand the physician’s role in the complex health care system and how to optimize the system to improve patient care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Identifies key components of the health care system
  Describes basic health payment systems | ● Understands the impact of health plan coverage on prescription drugs for individual patients  
  ● Understands that upon hospital discharge patients can receive intravenous (IV) antibiotics at home, at a nursing facility, or at an infusion center  
  ● Understands that Ryan White coverage and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides safety net coverage for patients with HIV |
| **Level 2** Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts patient care
  Delivers care with consideration of each patient’s payment model | ● Understands that patients with Medicare as their primary insurance are most likely to have the cost of outpatient IV antibiotics covered at an infusion center or skilled nursing facility rather than at home  
  ● Understands various payment models, including pay-for-performance, pay-for-service, and bundled payments.  
  ● Prescribes levofloxacin instead of moxifloxacin for community-acquired pneumonia because of formulary restrictions |
| **Level 3** Discusses how individual practice affects the broader system
  Engages with patients in shared decision making, informed by each patient’s payment models | ● Discusses the impact of broad-spectrum antibiotic overuse on community-level resistance patterns  
  ● Tailors antibiotic regimen in consideration of patient preferences and insurance coverage |
| **Level 4** Manages various components of the complex health care system to provide efficient and effective patient care
  Advocates for patient care needs with consideration of the limitations of each patient’s payment model | ● Works collaboratively to improve patient assistance resources for a patient with homelessness, substance use disorder, and limited finances  
  ● Prescribes a patient insured primarily by Medicare a once-daily IV antibiotic so that they can receive care by driving from home to an infusion center, rather than undergoing a prolonged skilled nursing facility stay |
| **Level 5** Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient, and effective patient care | ● Works with community or professional organizations to advocate for point-of-care HIV testing in the community  
  ● Improves informed consent process for non-English-speaking patients |
| Active in Influencing Health Policy through Advocacy Activities at the Local, Regional, or National Level | Discusses development of diagnostic test protocols with the microbiology lab aimed at reducing unnecessary diagnostic test ordering  
Organizes and leads the hospital team in a community AIDS walk |
|---|---|
| Assessment Models or Tools | Assessment of case conference presentations  
Direct observation  
E-modules  
End-of-rotation evaluations  
Medical record (chart) audit  
Multisource feedback  
Multiple choice questions  
Reflection  
Simulation |
| Curriculum Mapping |  |
| Notes or Resources | ACP. Practice Resources. [https://www.acponline.org/practice-resources](https://www.acponline.org/practice-resources). 2020.  
### Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 1: Evidence-Based and Informed Practice

**Overall Intent:** To incorporate evidence and patient values into clinical practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Demonstrates how to access and use available evidence for patient care and elicits patient preferences and values to guide care | ● Identifies evidence-based IDSA guidelines for asymptomatic bacteriuria  
● Conducts a PubMed search to identify best practices on retaining patients with HIV in care  
● Queries patient’s understanding of their infection and their preferences in management |
| **Level 2** Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patient values and preferences, to the care of patients with common conditions | ● In a patient with endocarditis, identifies and discusses potential evidence-based treatment options according to IDSA guidelines, and solicits patient perspective  
● Discusses risks and benefits of latent tuberculosis infection treatment in patient with a positive interferon gamma release assay  
● Uses a contemplation ladder to assess patient’s readiness to adhere to antiretrovirals |
| **Level 3** Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patient values and preference, to the care of patients with complex conditions | ● Obtains, discusses, and applies evidence for the treatment of endocarditis in a patient who injects drugs  
● In a treatment-experienced patient with HIV and a history of poor adherence, discusses the optimal management strategy with consideration for the patient’s preferences |
| **Level 4** Critically appraises conflicting or ambiguous evidence to guide individualized patient care | ● Discusses the literature on the utility of anal pap smears in patients living with HIV at a division conference  
● Leads a journal club discussion to critically appraise and debate the use of suppressive antibiotics for recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) |
| **Level 5** Mentors others to critically appraise and apply evidence | ● Leads clinical teaching on application of best practices in critical appraisal of sepsis criteria  
● As part of a team, develops a protocol for antimicrobial prophylaxis following stem cell transplantation |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

- Assessment of case conference presentations
- Direct observation
- E-modules
- End-of-rotation evaluations
- Medical record (chart) audit
- Multisource feedback
- Multiple choice questions
- Reflection
- Research portfolio
- Simulation

**Curriculum Mapping**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes or Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Institutional IRB guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Various journal submission guidelines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth**

**Overall Intent:** To seek clinical performance information with the intent to improve practice; develop clear objectives and goals for improvement through a learning plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Identifies personal and professional development goals and recognizes gaps between expectations and actual performance | ● Identifies gaps in knowledge of HIV medication side effects  
● Reviews a teaching session on HIV medication side effects  
● Discusses challenging clinical cases with colleagues |
| Actively seeks opportunities to improve | |
| **Level 2** Demonstrates openness to performance data (feedback and other input), and analyzes and reflects on gaps to inform goals | ● Respectfully receives feedback on interactions with house staff  
● Develops a plan based on feedback to improve interactions with house staff |
| Designs and implements a learning plan, with prompting | |
| **Level 3** Seeks performance data episodically, with adaptability and humility, and institutes behavioral changes to narrow the gaps between expectations and actual performance | ● In response to feedback, performs a chart audit to determine percentage of their own patient panel living with HIV that receive appropriate vaccinations  
● Creates a personal curriculum using web-based resources to improve knowledge on tropical parasites |
| Independently creates and implements a learning plan | |
| **Level 4** Intentionally seeks performance data consistently with adaptability and humility, considering alternatives in narrowing the gaps between expectations and actual performance | ● Completes a quarterly chart audit to ensure documentation of renal function testing for patients on tenofovir disoproxil  
● Tracks clinical cases of tuberculosis (TB) seen, recognizes gaps in experiences treating drug-resistant TB, and develops a learning plan for drug-resistant TB  
● Adjusts learning plan after receiving in-training examination scores to mitigate knowledge gaps in tropical diseases |
| Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and improves it when necessary | |
| **Level 5** Role models commitment to self-improvement and coaches others on reflective practice | ● Develops morbidity and mortality conference for infectious diseases division to identify and remediate organizational weaknesses  
● Assists first-year fellows in developing their individualized learning plans |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

● Direct observation
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Curriculum Mapping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes or Resources</td>
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</table>
## Professionalism 1: Professional Behavior

### Overall Intent:
To recognize and address lapses in professional behavior and demonstrate professional behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Demonstrates professional behavior in routine situations</td>
<td>● Respectfully accepts consultative request by all primary teams, regardless of the reason for consult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Level 2** Identifies and describes potential personal triggers for professionalism lapses and takes responsibility for one’s own professionalism lapses | ● Recognizes that when rounds take longer than is typical they are less conducive to teaching  
● Apologizes to consulting team for displaying irritation when paged with non-urgent question at 2 a.m. |
| **Level 3** Demonstrates a pattern of professional behavior in complex or stressful situations; describes when and where to report professionalism lapses | ● De-escalates an angry patient by listening to the patient’s perspective  
● Decides to speak face-to-face about a conflict instead of emailing  
● Reports to supervisor about an impaired colleague who is missing work  
● Reports to the hospital secure line about an unprofessional incident concerning a nurse |
| **Level 4** Recognizes situations that may trigger professionalism lapses and intervenes to prevent lapses in oneself and others | ● Develops contingency plan for returning to care with a patient who wishes to be discharged against medical advice  
● Recognizes a colleague is becoming frustrated with a learner and discusses it with that colleague |
| **Level 5** Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations | ● Coaches resident on consultation service on the appropriate use of pronouns after the resident misgenders a transgender patient  
● Coaches a medical student on considering patient perspectives after the medical student criticizes a patient for injecting drugs |

### Assessment Models or Tools
- Assessment of case conference presentations
- Direct observation
- E-modules
- End-of-rotation evaluations
- Medical record (chart) audit
- Multisource feedback
- Reflection
- Simulation

### Curriculum Mapping
- None

### Notes or Resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
# Professionalism 2: Ethical Principles

**Overall Intent:** To recognize and address ethical dilemmas and appropriately use resources to do so

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Demonstrates knowledge of ethical principles</td>
<td>● Articulates how the principle of autonomy applies to patients who do not want their images used for teaching or publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong> Applies ethical principles to address straightforward situations</td>
<td>● Applies principle of autonomy by obtaining informed consent from a patient before photographing a rare rash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong> Analyzes complex situations using ethical principles and identifies the need to seek help in addressing complex situations</td>
<td>● Offers alternative treatment options for a patient who declines inpatient IV antibiotics, despite that being standard of care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Level 4** Uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas as needed | ● Requests ethics consultation for an incapacitated patient whose family makes a decision that contradicts the patient’s previously expressed wishes  
● Allocates limited supply of remdesivir to appropriate patients with COVID-19  
● Coordinates with the local public health department to ensure the contacts of a patient recently diagnosed with primary syphilis have been traced, worked up and treated |
| **Level 5** Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution | ● Creates an endocarditis treatment team that meets regularly to discuss issues that influence decisions on valve replacement surgery for patients with endocarditis and a history of IV drug use  
● Sets up anonymous hotline to notify partners of persons diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections to protect both patient privacy and public health |

**Assessment Models or Tools**
- Assessment of case conference presentations  
  - Direct observation  
  - E-modules  
  - End-of-rotation evaluations  
  - Medical record (chart) audit  
  - Multisource feedback  
  - Reflection  
  - Simulation

**Curriculum Mapping**
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**Notes or Resources**
# Professionalism 3: Accountability/Conscientiousness

**Overall Intent:** To take responsibility for one’s own actions and the impact on patients and other members of the health care team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1 Performs tasks and responsibilities with prompting**              | ● Responds to reminders from program administrator to complete work hour logs or end of rotation evaluations  
                                | ● Attends conferences consistently and on time with prompting/reminders                                                               |
| **Level 2 Recognizes factors that may impact one’s own ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner and describes strategies for improvement** | ● Notifies attending of multiple competing demands on-call, appropriately triages tasks, and asks for assistance from other fellows or faculty members as needed |
| **Level 3 Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in routine situations** | ● In preparation for being out of the office, arranges coverage for assigned clinical tasks on infectious disease patients and ensures appropriate continuity of care  
                                | ● Is well prepared for scheduled presentations at conferences                                                                           |
| **Level 4 Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in complex or stressful situations** | ● Able to collegially and efficiently complete tasks when asked to cover a sick colleague                                                |
| **Level 5 Creates strategies to enhance others ability to complete administrative tasks and patient care efficiently** | ● Sets up a meeting with the clinic manager to streamline post discharge follow-up in fellow clinic                                         |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

- Compliance with deadlines and timelines
- Direct observation
- End-of-rotation evaluations
- Multisource feedback
- Reflection

**Curriculum Mapping**

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**Notes or Resources**

- Code of conduct from fellow/resident institutional manual
- Expectations of residency program regarding accountability and professionalism
## Professionalism 4: Well-Being

**Overall Intent:** To recognize the importance of well-being and to identify and use resources for augmenting well-being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Recognizes the importance of addressing personal and professional well-being</td>
<td>● Engages in required institutional well-being educational activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Level 2** Lists available resources for personal and professional well-being | ● Appropriately describes the fellowship’s policy for staying home when ill  
● Aware of counseling resources available to learners  
● Engages in fellowship feedback sessions to improve well-being across the program |
| **Level 3** With assistance, proposes a plan to promote personal and professional well-being | ● Proposes conference presentation dates to avoid conflicts with vacation plans using schedule request  
● Requests leave of absence due to uncontrolled depression |
| **Level 4** Independently develops a plan to promote personal and professional well-being | ● Develops action plans for job search prioritizing professional and personal goals  
● Prepares a robust board study schedule to minimize undue stress and anxiety  
● Arranges practice sessions with the simulation lab to improve confidence with lumbar punctures |
| **Level 5** Creates institutional level interventions that promote colleagues’ well-being | ● Works as part of a system committee to address inefficiencies in the EHR  
● Advocates with hospital leadership to provide healthier snack options throughout hospital vending machines  
● Launches fellowship-wide retreat focused on well-being issues and activities |

**Assessment Models or Tools**

- Fellowship feedback sessions
- Group interview or discussions for team activities
- Individual interview
- Institutional online training modules
- Reflective writing
- Self-assessment and personal learning plan
- Semi-annual evaluation

**Curriculum Mapping**

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**Notes or Resources**

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

- Local resources, including Employee Assistance
**Interpersonal and Communication Skills 1: Patient- and Family-Centered Communication**

**Overall Intent:** To deliberately use language and behaviors to form constructive relationships with patients; to identify communication barriers; to use self-reflection to identify personal biases and minimize them in the doctor-patient relationships; to organize and lead communication around shared decision making.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong> Uses clear language and non-verbal behavior to demonstrate respect and establish rapport</td>
<td>• Introduces self and faculty member, identifies patient and others in the room, and engages all parties in healthcare discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifies common barriers to effective communication</td>
<td>• Identifies need for trained interpreter with non-English-speaking patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong> Establishes and maintains a therapeutic relationship with the patient using active listening and clear language in straightforward encounters</td>
<td>• Uses patient-centered language when discussing vaccinations with hesitant patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prioritizes and sets agenda at the beginning of the appointment for a new patient with HIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifies complex barriers to effective communication</td>
<td>• Recognizes the need for handouts with diagrams and pictures to communicate information to a patient with low literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong> Establishes and maintains a therapeutic relationship using effective communication behaviors in challenging patient encounters</td>
<td>• Acknowledges patient’s request for empiric Lyme disease treatment in context of chronic fatigue, and arranges timely follow-up to align diagnostic plan with goals of care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In a discussion with the faculty member, acknowledges transference in caring for a patient with sacral osteomyelitis who does not engage in off-loading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusts communication strategies based on identified barriers, incorporating patient and caregiver expectations and goals of care</td>
<td>• Participates in a family meeting to determine a plan of care for a terminally ill patient who speaks American Sign Language (ASL), and arranges for an ASL interpreter to be present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong> Establishes and maintains therapeutic relationships using shared decision making, regardless of complexity</td>
<td>• Continues to engage with and adjust treatment goals of patient with HIV who is not on antiretroviral therapy and regularly engages in condomless sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactively improves communication by addressing barriers, including patient and personal biases</td>
<td>• Reflects on personal bias related to injection drug use and recurrent endocarditis and solicits input from faculty about mitigation of communication barriers when counseling around cessation of substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong> Serves as a role model in establishing respectful, culturally sensitive therapeutic relationships while mitigating communication barriers and engaging in critical self-reflection</td>
<td>• Leads a group discussion on personal experience of moral distress in caring for a racist patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develops a residency curriculum on unconscious bias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Serves on a hospital bioethics committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Assessment Models or Tools                  | • Direct observation  
• End-of-rotation evaluations  
• Multisource feedback  
• Reflection  
• Simulation |
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Mapping</td>
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</table>
# Interpersonal and Communication Skills 2: Interprofessional and Team Communication

**Overall Intent:** To effectively communicate with the health care team, including other consultants, in both straightforward and complex situations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Level 1** Communicates information effectively in a manner that demonstrates respect for all members of the interprofessional team | - Receives consult request for a patient with cellulitis, asks clarifying questions politely, and expresses gratitude for the consult  
- Acknowledges the contribution of each member of the infectious disease consult team to the patient |
| **Level 2** Solicits feedback on performance as a member of the health care team and adjusts communication approach to team needs, promoting open and safe communication | - Asks medical student for feedback on teaching  
- Sends a message in EHR to the infectious disease pharmacist to clarify drug dosing recommendations and therapeutic monitoring |
| **Level 3** Facilitates interprofessional team communication to reconcile conflict and provides constructive feedback to team members | - Initiates electronic communication among consulting teams to discuss safety of brain biopsy for intracranial lesion  
- Reviews rotating resident’s infectious disease consult note and provides feedback on the assessment and plan |
| **Level 4** Leads and facilitates regular interdisciplinary discussions, including in complex and challenging situations | - Arranges for meeting among consulting teams to discuss possibility of removal of infected prosthesis, including risks and benefits  
- Discusses with infectious disease pharmacist regarding use of restricted antibiotic for a septic patient with a history of a multidrug resistant organism, pending antimicrobial susceptibility data |
| **Level 5** Models and coaches flexible communication strategies that facilitate excellence in interprofessional teamwork | - Coaches resident member of the infectious disease consult team on discussing recommendations with the team requesting consult |

**Assessment Models or Tools**
- Direct observation  
- End-of-rotation evaluations  
- Multisource feedback  
- Reflection  
- Simulation

**Curriculum Mapping**

**Notes or Resources**


### Interpersonal and Communication Skills 3: Communication within Health Care Systems

**Overall Intent:** To effectively communicate using a variety of methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
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| **Level 1** Accurately documents comprehensive and current information     | • Documentation of a patient transferred from an outside facility with *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia includes relevant blood culture data from the transferring institution  
  • Shreds patient list after rounds; avoids talking about patients in the elevator  
  • Exercises care in discussing HIV status of a patient when family present in room |
| Communicates using formats specified by institutional policy to safeguard patient personal health information |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| **Level 2** Documents encounter, including clinical reasoning in an organized manner | • Outlines clinical reasoning behind obtaining brain imaging in an immunocompromised patient with *Nocardia* pulmonary infection  
  • Develops documentation templates for the inpatient consult rotations  
  • Pages surgical resident to discuss findings in operating room per infectious disease attending’s recommendation |
| Selects direct and indirect forms of communication based on context, with guidance |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| **Level 3** Documents encounter through prioritized and concise yet thorough notes | • Consultation note on a patient with meningitis of unclear etiology includes prioritized list of diagnostic tests to obtain on cerebrospinal fluid  
  • Receives notification of positive blood culture on a clinic patient and immediately calls the patient  
  • Calls health department to obtain historical data about syphilis treatment in patient with a positive *Treponema pallidum* antibody test and negative rapid plasma regain |
| Independently selects direct and indirect forms of communication based on context |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| **Level 4** Concisely documents clinical reasoning, including anticipatory guidance, while satisfying institutional billing needs and compliance | • Provides anticipatory guidance on needing to change therapy to amphotericin from fluconazole if lumbar puncture is positive in an immunocompetent patient with cryptococcal pneumonia  
  • Talks directly to an emergency room physician about breakdowns in communication regarding delay to initiation of antibiotics in patient with sepsis |
| Models effective written and verbal communication                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| **Level 5** Coaches others in accurately documenting diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning | • Coaches rotating resident on documentation of timing of follow-up imaging for a patient with an undrained intraabdominal abscess who is being discharged  
  • Leads a task force established by the hospital QI committee to develop a plan to improve transition of patients requiring IV antibiotics from the inpatient to outpatient setting |
| Guides departmental or institutional communication policies and procedures  |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Assessment Models or Tools                                                 | • Direct observation  
  • End-of-rotation evaluations  
  • Multisource feedback                                                                                                                        |
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Available Milestones Resources

Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook, updated 2020 -
https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/ACGMEClinicalCompetencyCommitteeGuidebook.pdf?ver=2020-04-16-121941-380

Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook Executive Summaries, New 2020 - https://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Milestones/Resources - Guidebooks - Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook Executive Summaries


Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows, updated 2020 -
https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/MilestonesGuidebookforResidentsFellows.pdf?ver=2020-05-08-150234-750


Assessment Guidebook, new 2020 -
https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/Guidebooks/AssessmentGuidebook.pdf?ver=2020-11-18-155141-527

Milestones National Report, updated each Fall -

Milestones Bibliography, updated twice each year -
https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/MilestonesBibliography.pdf?ver=2020-08-19-153536-447

Developing Faculty Competencies in Assessment courses - https://www.acgme.org/Meetings-and-Educational-Activities/Other-Educational-Activities/Courses-and-Workshops/Developing-Faculty-Competencies-in-Assessment

Assessment Tool: Direct Observation of Clinical Care (DOCC) - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/assessment

Assessment Tool: Teamwork Effectiveness Assessment Module (TEAM) - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/assessment

Learn at ACGME has several courses on Assessment and Milestones - https://dl.acgme.org/