Practical Implementation of EPAs in US Anesthesiology Training

GLENN WOODWORTH MD, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, REGIONAL AND ACUTE PAIN FELLOWSHIP
Oregon Health & Science University

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Disclosures

- The speaker has no disclosures

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Learning Objectives

Upon Completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Describe the current status of EPA use in UME and GME
- Identify implementation of EPAs in international anesthesiology training
- Define the structure of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)
- Describe the process used to develop EPAs for a pilot project in US Anesthesiology training
- Describe the practical implementation of EPS in a pilot project including data collection via a mobile APP and reporting

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What We Know: Assessment

- Competency assessment is important for resident evaluation (CCC)
- Timely assessment and meaningful feedback is critical for learning

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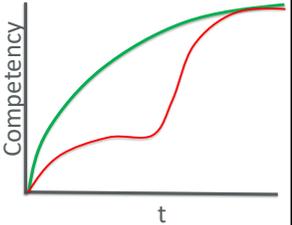
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What We Know: Faculty Assessments

Faculty dislike filling out assessments
- Burdensome
- Don't think they are meaningful
- Infrequent, not timely, not meaningful

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What We Know: Problems with Assessments

- Lack of valid and reliable tools
- Assessments are subject to bias
- Require training
- Assessment subject to context
  - Patient factors
  - Resident factors

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We are Here to Help

- Training
- Decrease burden of submitting (get more data)
- Make assessments meaningful
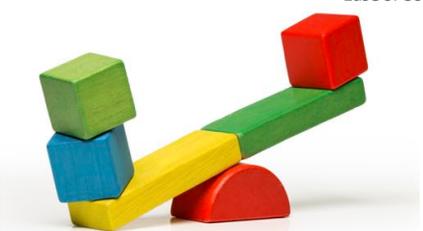- Stimulate timely and meaningful feedback

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Project Goals

- Define EPAs for US Anesthesiology training
- Do not reinvent the wheel
- Provide off-the shelf tools
- Minimalist approach to assessment
- Pilot test an implementation

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Simplicity vs Fidelity

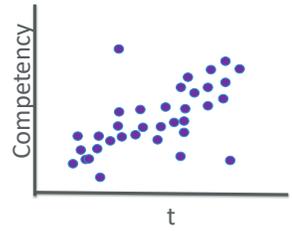Ease of Use

Utility

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Big Data

- Lots of data can wash out many factors that bias or affect scoring
- The assessment system better be easy to use

ten Cate O. Nuts and bolts of entrustable professional activities. J Grad Med Educ. 2013;591):157-8
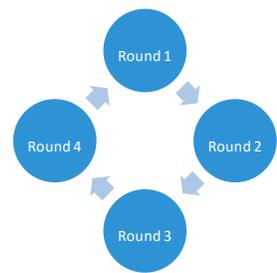
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Anesthesia EPA Pilot Project Approach

- Learn from our international neighbors
- Formed US Committee
- Checked in with RRC
- Separate out Procedures
- Delphi process to define EPA titles and procedural skills

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Delphi Process

- 110 EPA titles
- Goal: Narrow the list
- Iterative approach to reach consensus

Round 1 · Round 2 · Round 3 · Round 4

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20 EPAs in the US Anesthesiology Pilot

Core Activity
- Preop Assessment
- Airway management
- Transfer of care
- PACU care

Case Based
- General OR Case
- OOR Case
- Labor analgesia
- C/S
- Pregnant Non OB surgery)
- Peds periop care
- Neonatal periop care
- Cardiac surgery
- Thoracic surgery
- Regional anesthesia case
- Chronic pain non OR
- Intracranial procedure
- Major trauma
- AAA
- Critical care non OR
- Acute Pain non OR

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EPA Structure

- EPA Title
- General description of the EPA
- Key Features
- Assessment plan

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Mapping EPAs to milestones

- Each EPA is mapped to the milestones
- Achieving each level of entrustment also achieves milestones

List of Subcompetencies and Milestones (check all that apply to each level of entrustment)	Did Activity Supervisor did the activity	Direct Supervision constant or near constant supervision, requires physcial presence	Reactive Supervision Supervisor directed trainee from time to time, trainee often requires consultation	Available if Needed Supervisor was available just in case, reactive supervision that is infrequent	Independent Practice Trainee ready for independent practice
Patient Care 1, Pre_anesthetic patient evaluation, assessment and preparation					
Performs general histories and physical examinations			x	x	x
Identifies clinical issues relevant to anesthetic care with direct supervision		x	x	x	x
Identifies the elements and process of informed consent			x	x	x

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Procedural Badges

- Specific procedural skills
  - Arterial line
  - Central line
  - Single shot interscalene block
- Same method for assessment as Case-based EPAS
- Trainees "earn" entrustment

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Entrustment Scale

- I did it
- Direct supervision – constant supervision
- Reactive supervision – frequent consultation
- Available if Needed– infrequent consultation
- Independent practice
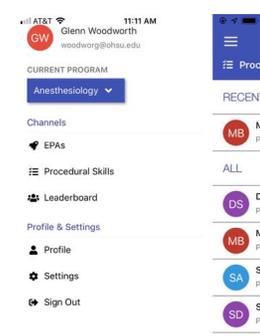

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Supervision is Different than Trust

- But we can't allow trainees to perform independently!
- Score the level of trust in what the trainee could do

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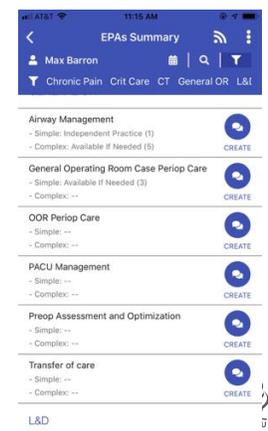## Pilot EPA assessment approach

- Digital portfolio
  - EPAs
  - Procedural badges
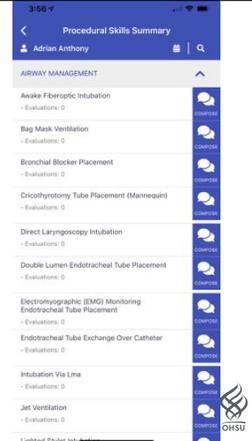- Easy to use APP (minimal clicks)

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Digital Portfolio

- Total number of assessments
- Current score for each EPA or Procedural Skill
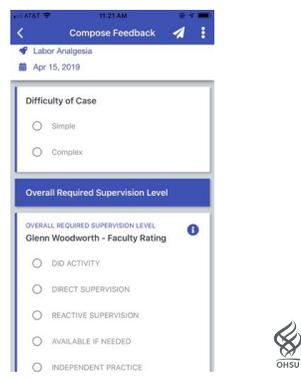- Based on most recent 5 scores

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Faculty Version

- Only Total number of assessments visible
- Pros and Cons to this approach

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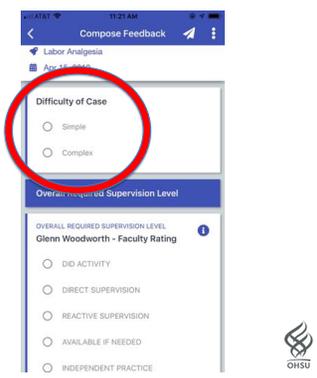## Entering an Assessment

- **Only 3 things to fill out**
  - Difficulty
  - Score
  - Comments

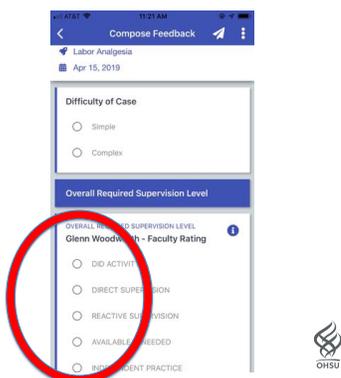22

What Makes Something Complex

- Patient comorbidities
- Complexity of EPA
- Emergency
- Complications

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Mark your level of Supervision

- Check the box

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Enter Comments

- Type or dictate your comments
- Then submit

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Three Easy Steps

- Complexity
- Score
- Comments

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Don't Forget about Feedback

- Why did you score the EPA the way you did?
- Identify gaps in trainee performance
- Talk about a learning plan

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CCC Reporting

For each trainee view the current level vs graduation target

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CCC Reporting

- Click to drill down on a particular EPA or Procedure to get a graphical view

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Pilot Project Goals

- Score every case or procedure – get in the habit!!!!!
- Provide feedback to the trainee

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Future Directions

- Modify the system based on feedback
- Compare rate and quality of feedback prior to and after implementation of the APP
- Assess the utility of the EPA data to the CCC

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Questions

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