Certifying Exam
Case Summaries

CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING

Emergency physicians see patients with undifferentiated presentations. Clinical Decision-Making (CDM) cases are structured discussions designed to assess a candidate's ability to evaluate and treat such patients. A successful candidate will be able to explain their thought processes behind certain decisions made during the various phases of a clinical encounter.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Having difficult conversations such as breaking bad news to patients and families is an essential skill for an emergency physician. These discussions may include sensitive, unwanted, or unexpected information. A successful candidate will establish rapport and effectively communicate in an empathetic manner.

MANAGING CONFLICT

Managing conflict (e.g., negotiating) is an essential skill for an emergency physician. This case requires the physician to navigate a differing position to negotiate a mutual understanding for a patient-centered outcome. A successful candidate will create solutions to the situations in which they are involved.

PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNICATIONS

Engaging and being able to effectively communicate with patients and families are essential skills for an emergency physician. The Patient-Centered Communication (PCC) cases focus on both the content and the process of communication with a patient. A successful candidate will empathically use verbal and nonverbal skills to engage in bidirectional communication that is essential for a successful therapeutic encounter in the emergency department.

PRIORITIZATION

A hallmark of emergency medicine is the ability to triage or prioritize care. This case will require the physician to evaluate and treat multiple patients while ensuring those who require immediate care receive it quickly. The physician may face the arrival of additional patients, the deterioration of existing patients, and realistic workflow interruptions during the case. A successful candidate will identify and stabilize high acuity patients.

PROCEDURES

Emergency physicians must regularly perform procedures in the emergency department. The procedural case evaluates a candidate's ability to perform skills that are integral to the practice of emergency medicine. A successful candidate will demonstrate the preparation for the procedure (i.e. indications, risks), the performance of the procedure, and the provision of post-procedure care.

ULTRASOUND

Point-of-care ultrasound is an essential skill that is integrated into clinical practice. The candidate must be able to explain the ultrasound study to a standardized patient. Based on the clinical scenario that is presented, the candidate will efficiently acquire quality views while an examiner operates the ultrasound machine (i.e., knob adjustment). A successful candidate will be able to describe relevant anatomy and interpret pathologic images.

REASSESSMENT/TROUBLESHOOTING

Emergency physicians frequently address incomplete, changing, or conflicting information. These cases will present the candidate with clinical data or circumstances that require a reassessment of a patient's condition. The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to evaluate new information, efficiently problem solve, and optimize patient management.

August 2024