

Development of an Interprofessional Post-Graduate Emergency Medicine Fellowship

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Goals/Objectives

- To provide advanced post graduate training in emergency medicine for Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP). To develop professional and interprofessional skills within the IPEC framework focusing on collaboration between members of the healthcare team

Background

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Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are licensed medical providers that practice in nearly every field of medicine in coordination with physicians to improve access to and enhance the quality of healthcare¹. These providers, in collaboration with their physician colleagues, participate in full spectrum patient care in the emergency department and are a critical component of the healthcare team.

Overview of the Fellowship

The primary goal of the Fellowship is to produce confident, competent PAs and NPs that can: deliver excellent patient care to patients presenting to the Emergency Department, be comfortable with advanced procedures, and develop a greater understanding of the continuum of care of patients in the Emergency Department - with a focus on interprofessionalism. The Fellowship is twelve months long and encompasses clinical, didactic, inter-professional and academic components. The majority of clinical time is spent in the ED. Off-service rotations include Anesthesia, Orthopedic Surgery, Hospitalist Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Rural Emergency Medicine. The Fellows are evaluated with daily shift evaluations as well as weekly comprehension tests and 3 comprehensive exams throughout the year. Lectures and activities related to interprofessionalism are interspersed throughout the curricula. The Fellowship follows an abbreviated course similar to physician Emergency Medicine residencies. PAs/NPs and resident physicians have, and continue to, work closely across many medical specialties.²

Outcomes

- The Emergency Medicine fellowship has graduated 11 Fellows to date, with 4 more graduating in February 2018. Our fellowship graduates currently practice across the U.S and internationally.
- Following the success of the EM PA/NP Fellowship, PA/NP Fellowships have been started at Carilion in Orthopedic Surgery, Family/Community Medicine and Acute Care Surgery.

Challenges/Lessons learned

- Multiple learners/learner saturation
- Sense of belonging
- Growth management
- Common application/messaging
- Billing, reimbursement, budget neutrality

References

- 1-Cawley J, Ott J, DeAtley C. The Future for Physician Assistants. Ann Intern Med. 1983;98(6):993-997.
2- Abrass C, Ballweg, R, Gilshannon, M, Coombs J. A Process for Reducing Workload and Enhancing Residents' Education at an Academic Medical Center. Academic Medicine. 2001; 76 (8): 798-805