



CAME Voice/Voix

Fundamental Teaching Activities – EPAs for Teachers

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We are long past the age when it was assumed that teachers knew everything they needed to know to be effective. Increasing attention is being paid to the on-going professional development of teachers, particularly as medical education programs at all levels across the country adopt competency-based approaches. Teachers need both a clear understanding of the expectations and opportunities within their roles, and faculty development to guide their professional growth over the course of their careers. Educational institutions and other faculty development providers need guidance and support in developing and organizing curricula for teacher development.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) has been working to develop resources for teachers working in and around family medicine. The CFPC launched a new resource at the recent Canadian Conference in Medical Education (CCME) in Vancouver. Entitled “Fundamental Teaching Activities in Family Medicine: a framework for faculty development”, it articulates the fundamental teaching activities (FTAs) of teachers in family medicine settings, and was developed based on the concept of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) used in the education of learners. We have defined a ‘Fundamental Teaching Activity’ as a holistic description of what a teacher actually does, and the resource includes a number of different competencies relevant to teaching family medicine based around three domains: Clinical Preceptor; Teacher Outside the Clinical Setting; and Educational Leader. Signature tasks are identified within each domain, each broken down into a number of fundamental activities. A developmental trajectory is described for each activity, helping teachers to identify the next steps in their professional development.

While the “Fundamental Teaching Activities in Family Medicine: a framework for faculty development” tool was developed with family medicine contexts in mind, it is broadly applicable to teachers in any of the disciplines in medicine, and indeed to any health professional teacher.

Take a look at the FTA Framework (as we call it for short) and see how it could be useful to you. We value your comments, which can be submitted on the website at the link below.

<http://www.cfpc.ca/FTA/>