

## ACGME “Core” Competencies

The residency program must require its residents to obtain competence in the six areas listed below to the level expected of a new practitioner.

Programs must define the specific knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes required, and provide educational experiences as needed in order for their residents to demonstrate the following:

1. **Patient care** that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Residents are expected to:
  - a) communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families;
  - b) gather essential and accurate information about their patients;
  - c) make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment;
  - d) develop and carry out patient management plans;
  - e) counsel and educate patients and their families;
  - f) demonstrate the ability to practice culturally competent medicine;
  - g) use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education;
  - h) perform competently all medical and invasive procedures considered essential for the area of practice;
  - i) provide health care services aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health; and
  - j) work with health care professionals, including those from other disciplines, to provide patient-focused care.
  
2. **Medical knowledge** about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. Residents are expected to:
  - a) demonstrate an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations; and
  - b) know and apply the basic and clinically supportive sciences which are appropriate to orthopaedic surgery.
  
3. **Practice-based learning and improvement** that involves the investigation and evaluation of care for their patients, the appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence, and improvements in patient care. Residents are expected to:
  - a) analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology;
  - b) locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients health problems;
  - c) obtain and use information about their own population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn;

- d) apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness;
- e) use information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information, and support their own education; and
- f) facilitate the learning of students and other health care professionals.

**4. Interpersonal and communication skills** that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals. Residents are expected to:

- a) create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients;
- b) use effective listening skills and elicit and provide information using effective nonverbal, explanatory, questioning, and writing skills; and
- c) work effectively with others as a member or leader of a healthcare team or other professional group.

**5. Professionalism**, as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to patients of diverse backgrounds. Residents are expected to:

- a) demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity; a responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supersedes self-interest; accountability to patients, society and the profession; and a commitment to excellence and ongoing professional development;
- b) demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices;
- c) demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients culture, age, gender, and disabilities; and
- d) demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to fellow health care professionals, culture, age, gender, and disabilities.

**6. Systems-based practice**, as manifested by actions that demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. Residents are expected to:

- a) understand how their patient care and other professional practices affect other healthcare professionals, the healthcare organization, and the larger society and how these elements of the system affect their own practice;
- b) know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling healthcare costs and allocating resources;
- c) practice cost-effective health care and resources allocation that does not compromise quality of care;

- d) advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities; and
- e) know how to partner with health care managers and healthcare procedures to assess, coordinate, and improve health care and know how these activities can affect system performance.