

Abstract:

Easy as 1, 2, 3: Implementing an Advocacy Curriculum in a Family Medicine Residency Program

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Background:

The ACGME has now formally recognized the role that family physicians take on as advocates. The 2022 ACGME competencies for family medicine training include that residents demonstrate basic skills in advocating for patients in the healthcare system, for ensuring quality patient care, and for identifying system errors and solutions. This project proposes to create a curriculum that supports residents to develop the skills to be successful advocates.

Methods:

Residents will complete a pre-assessment identifying the current knowledge and skills gaps regarding system-level advocacy. Using this data, a curriculum will be refined to address the identified needs. This curriculum will feature lectures and skill-based sessions. The initial lectures will review the definition, purpose, and skills to advocate at different system levels. The final sessions will emphasize practical skills including to recognize a topic to advocate for, identify stakeholders, choose the appropriate mechanism, and communicate their message. A post-survey will assess the efficacy of the educational intervention and identify areas for future improvement. We will use combination of paired t-test and chi-squared analysis to compare pre- and post- survey results.

Conclusion:

We hypothesize that a formalized advocacy curriculum will improve residents' understanding of basic advocacy skills and confidence in their ability to utilize these skills. We hope helping residents realize that this work is actionable, sustainable, and rewarding, they will be more empowered applying these skills as attendings.