



Primer for EPA TTP3 - Assessing and managing patients in whom there is uncertainty in diagnosis and/or treatment

*This **Transition to Practice - TTP EPA 3 (PGY4)** focuses on the treatment of patients for whom there is uncertainty in diagnosis despite appropriate clinical assessment, and/or uncertainty in determining optimal therapy. It includes the clinical assessment and management as well as effective communication of uncertainty to the patient/family and primary care or referring physician..*

What is CBD?

Competency By Design is the Royal College's model of Competence-Based Medical Education (CBME) which is an educational model that is...

- More oriented to **outcomes** rather than time in training (i.e. what trainee can DO)
- More **flexible** to learners' prior skills and current needs
- Training using a **coaching** approach with more regular feedback & entrustment decisions
- Enhanced **tracking** of learners' progress and performance

What is an EPA?

An Entrustable Professional Activity is a **unit of work** actually done during the clinician's day (e.g., admit a patient to hospital, carry out a procedure, lead a family meeting)

- There are **29 EPAs** for the PGY1-4 Internal Medicine training program
- Each EPA gets **assessed several times** for each resident
- Each EPA is made up of several **"milestones"**
- The EPAs increase in **complexity** through stages

Learn more about EPAs and CBD:

READ

- [CBD Terminology](#)
- [Improving Feedback Tips](#)

WATCH

- [CBME & CBD 101](#)
- [CBD in Internal Medicine](#)

VISIT

- [DOM CBME](#) for general information on resources and events.
- [PGME Elentra Help](#) for Elentra Guides

Questions? CONTACT us at im.cbd@utoronto.ca

EPA MILESTONES: TTP3 – Uncertainty in Diagnosis and/or Treatment

1. Prioritize which issues need to be addressed
2. Synthesize patient information
3. Revise the differential diagnosis in response to new clinical information, or response to treatment
4. Demonstrate flexibility in clinical reasoning, in the setting of clinical uncertainty
5. Establish a patient-centered management plan despite limited, non-diagnostic, or conflicting clinical data
6. Develop a plan to deal with clinical uncertainty
7. Determine the most appropriate procedures or therapies for the purpose of assessment and/or management
8. Convey information related to the uncertainty in diagnosis and/or treatment in a clear, timely and transparent manner
9. Facilitate discussions with the patient and family in a way that is respectful, non-judgmental, and culturally safe
10. Use communication skills and strategies that help the patient make informed decisions
11. Identify limits in their own expertise
12. Determine the necessity and timing of referral to another health care professional
13. Consult as needed with other health care professionals, including other physicians

HOW TO COMPLETE AN EPA ASSESSMENT:

1. You or the resident initiate the assessment. The assessment may be based on direct observation or case discussion.
2. You or the resident sign onto Elentra, and provide the assessment demographics. This can be done on the mobile phone or computer top.
3. From the list of milestones pertinent to the EPA, choose 2-3 milestones that are relevant to the activity, and indicate their



performance level on each milestone you assessed, using the entrustment scale. You are not required to cover all milestones, but are welcome to.

- Using the global entrustment scale, decide whether the resident can be entrusted overall to perform this activity with a similar case in the future. In general, residents are not expected to be entrustable early in a new stage of training, although this particular tool verifies skills that should have been learned in medical school.
- Describe 2-3 strengths and 2-3 actions, or areas for improvement. Please provide detailed and actionable comments based on your observations of their performance.
- Discuss your feedback with the resident.



GLOBAL ENTRUSTMENT SCALE
(**Competent** and **Proficient** levels are entrustable)