

Scope of Practice: Domains and Questions

Domain: Knowledge

- Did I complete a program that prepared me to see this population (family, adult, pediatric) of patients?
- Did this program include supervised clinical and didactic training focusing on this population?
- Did I complete a program that prepared me for sub-specialization (acute care, geriatric, neonatal)? If so, is the patient in question in that category?
- Do I have the knowledge to differentially diagnose and manage the conditions for which I am seeing this patient?

Domain: Role Validation

- Am I licensed to practice in this role?
- Is additional licensure or certification required to do this skill on an ongoing or specialized basis?
- Do professional organizations define this role through specialty scope statements and criteria or standards of practice?
- Do professional standards support or validate what I am doing?
- How do I "hold myself out" (define my role) with the public? Do my qualifications, training, and licensure match this?
- Is the information regarding my training easily accessible and can it be validated to the public, healthcare credentialing staff, facilities, and other interested parties?

Domain: Competence and Skill

- What are the clinical competence/skills required to treat this condition?
- Have I been trained to differentially diagnosis this type of patient?
- Did this training include clinical and didactic training?
- How have I achieved and demonstrated competence?
- How have I maintained competence?
- What is the standard of a practitioner in this field and do I meet it? Do I meet these standards on a limited or broad basis?
- Have I completed a specialty preceptorship, fellowship, or internship that qualifies me beyond my basic educational training?

Domain: Environment

- Does the environment that I work in support this scope or practice through structures such as staffing, consultation, policies and procedures, protocols, and community standards?
- Am I an expert, novice, or midlevel provider in this field? Do my credentialing to the public and my consultative network match this?
- Is access to care an issue? Will I be facilitating or impeding access to the best trained professional?

Domain: Ethics

- What are the potential consequences of accepting treatment responsibility for this patient?
- Am I prepared to accept and manage the consequences of my diagnosis and treatment, or do I have a formally established relationship with a provider who is so trained and immediately available?
- If I am not the primary care provider, will my provision of care be shared with this person?
- Is the safety of the patient at acute risk if I do not act?
- Will the safety of the patient be compromised if I do act?
- Is there a personal or formal relationship with this patient that would potentially affect my ability to provide or to deny care?

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