Entrustable professional activities

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Abstract:

Competency based assessments perpetuates the view that the competencies are isolated and somewhat superficial add-ons to training requirements. This results from our tendency to reduce the competencies, which are complex tasks, to simple behaviours so that we can more easily assess them. Entrustable Professional activities (EPAs) are being identified as the bridge to connect the competencies to “real world” and “real time” practice. The word Entrustable designates that “a practitioner has demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to be trusted to independently perform this activity.

Aim

This presentation targets teachers and highlights our experience in using EPAs as novel methods in psychiatric registrar training program and demonstrates a step that has the potential to transform psychiatric medical education, with the ultimate hope of improving the care of the mentally ill.
Method

A case report, of two 2nd year Post graduates at Suburban Psychiatry inpatient unit, on Patient handover EPA.

Guidelines for Entrustable handover was defined based on State wide accepted ISABAR handover guidelines and College guidelines.

The trainees were initially non-systematic, with missing essential data’s or over inclusive of non essential data.

However, trainees were assessed regularly by supervisors to know when to “entrust” the trainee with this EPA, meaning the trainee is capable of performing the EPA independently.

Outcome

Both trainees reached EPA standard.

The trainees felt more competent, confident and enthusiastic with self learning. It also improved their patient case. It also helped the multidisciplinary team in optimal and safe management of the patients.