



MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

## Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

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### **The use of Entrustable Professional Activities in Memorial University's Phase 4 (Clerkship) curriculum**

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**Background:** Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) are tasks or responsibilities that learners are expected to perform without direct supervision once they have gained sufficient specific competence. The value of EPAs has recently been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges, which launched its landmark guide, "Core Entrustable Professional Activities for Entering Residency," in 2014. This document developed as a result of increasing concern among program directors in the United States that medical school graduates were not prepared for the responsibilities of residency. As part of its new spiral undergraduate medical education curriculum, Memorial University has used this new AAMC document to guide teaching and assessment in clerkship. **Discussion:** Each EPA was first mapped to the appropriate CanMEDS 2005 competency, on which the Memorial University Medical School's program objectives are based. Specific learning objectives were then linked to the appropriate EPA. Assessments of the EPAs are distributed throughout the 3rd and 4th years (Phase 4). This process was developed by the clerkship committee, with faculty and student representation. Assessment methods ensure acquisition of competencies within specific disciplines as well as longitudinal progression of competencies across disciplines throughout Phase 4. Progression is reviewed by the Phase 4 committee regularly during both 3rd and 4th years. Lack of progression of competencies represented by a lack of progress within any given EPA is addressed by designing specific learning plans to target those EPAs. Promotion from Phase 4 and hence graduation from medical school to enter residency is a decision made by the Phase 4 committee taking into account the above progression in each EPA. **Conclusions:** This process ensures adequate preparation for each graduating Memorial University medical student to enter a residency program.