Title: Pediatric Residency Preparedness for Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship: A Survey of Fellowship Program and Associate Program Directors

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Background: Over the past decade, there has been a steadily increasing interest in the field of pediatric emergency medicine (PEM) among pediatric residents. While some residency programs provide curriculum tracks that offer training opportunities in a specific subspecialty, there are requirements pediatric residents must complete prior to graduation that may or may not pertain to their ultimate subspecialty of choice. The current Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements are for a minimum of 3 months of PEM rotations.

Objective: To examine the perception of PEM program directors (PDs) and associate PDs (APDs) regarding the preparedness of PEM fellows who have recently graduated from pediatric residency programs.

Design/Methods: This was a cross-sectional study of PEM fellowship PDs and APDs. A 26-item validated survey was electronically distributed from November to December 2019 and consisted of five domains: professionalism, autonomy, psychomotor skills, clinical evaluation and management, and academia/scholarship. A 5-point Likert scale rated PD/APD agreement regarding an incoming fellows' ability to perform each task.

Results: 48/119 (40%) eligible PDs & APDs responded. Most respondents were from programs with 6-10 total fellows (60%) and from urban areas (94%). Most programs (56%) have a clinical competency committee of <5 faculty members. The majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that fellows perform adequately in areas of professionalism, independence, and clinical evaluation and management; the only exception was intraosseous (IO) and intubation performance (Fig 1). There were similar results in the psychomotor domain regarding indications, contraindications, and equipment knowledge. However, in psychomotor skill performance, there was a shift to neutral to disagree for certain skills (IO placement and intubation). There were also more neutral to disagree responses in the academia/scholarship domain. The majority of PDs (54%) feel that current pediatric residency training is strong to very strong (Fig 2).

Conclusion(s): Overall, PEM fellowship PDs & APDs feel that incoming PEM fellows are adequately trained in the areas of professionalism, independence, and clinical evaluation and management. There are areas of improvement within psychomotor skill performance and academia and scholarship.

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(data provided below)
Figure 1: Survey Results
Figure 2: Overall Preparedness of Pediatric Residency Training for PEM Fellowship