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A comparison of medical students and program directors' perceived skill needs for internship'

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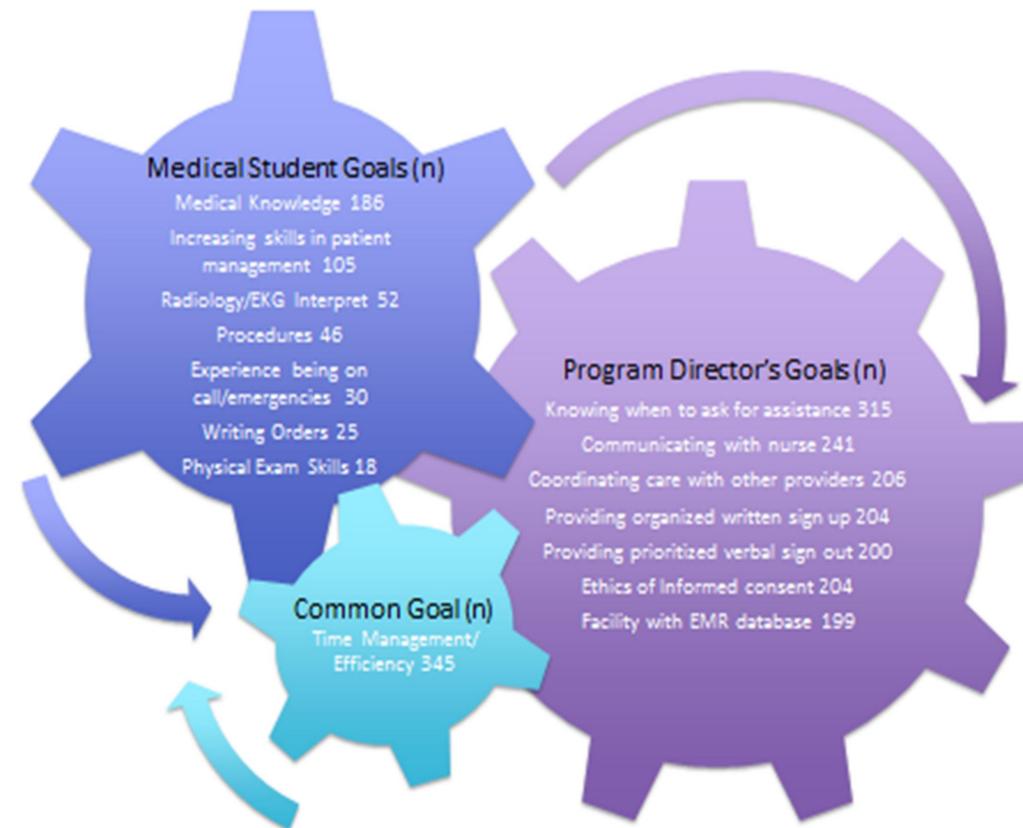
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Introduction

- Stakeholders in the training of sub interns have varying perspectives on priorities for this important clinical experience.
- Existing assessments of student goals and internal medicine residency program directors opinions on expectations for readiness to function as an intern have not been compared.

Methods

- Students starting internal medicine subinternship at the University of New Mexico between April 2010 and April 2012 and at Ohio State University between July 2012 and July 2013 were surveyed regarding their goals for the rotation.
- In 2010, the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM) subinternship task force performed a survey of internal medicine clerkship directors to identify skills expected in new interns.
- 36 items were scored to reflect perceived level of priority. Additionally, "free text" responses could be entered. These were compiled into a separate list of common themes. In both surveys respondents were allowed to select more than one item.



References

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Results

- 40 students completed the survey at the University of New Mexico and 175 at Ohio State University.
- 282 of 377 program directors completed the 2010 CDIM sub internship task force survey.

Discussion

- Students' and program directors' goals for their sub internship rotation provides useful information about perceived gaps and areas of growth potential.
- Data gathered in 2013 suggests students mainly want to increase medical knowledge and develop skills in patient management, including operational tasks.
- Program directors ranked development of recognizing situations and communication skills as the most important domains for new internal medicine interns.
- These responses may reflect experience with problems borne from lack of these skills. Not surprisingly, both groups surveyed gave a moderate to high level of importance to efficiency.

