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Creating and Implementing an Anesthesiology Selective Rotation in the University of New Mexico School of Medicine Phase II Curriculum

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Introduction

- Anesthesia is poorly understood and underestimated as a career choice for graduating medical students in the United States.¹
- In 2018-2019, 25 of 151 LCME accredited medical schools reported an average of 1.7 required weeks of anesthesia.²
- Currently, University of New Mexico (UNM) Phase II medical students have less than one mandatory week of anesthesia.³
- Most sessions are spent learning skills on mannequins and only two days are dedicated to clinical application in the operating room.³
- UNM medical students do not have the option to select anesthesia as an elective for any core clerkships.

Methods

- Single center, academic institution implementation
- A two-week elective anesthesiology rotation was designed during the mandatory surgery clerkship
- Formal overall goals, objectives, and expectations for the elective was established
- A method to assess student participation and understanding was developed

Results

- A two-week anesthesiology selective was implemented in the UNM School of Medicine phase II curriculum
- Clinicals at UNM Hospital begin November 9th, 2020
- 100% (3 of 3 available positions) occupancy with the first surgical cohort group of the Class of 2022

Table 1. Anesthesiology Selective Goals and Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology and Physiology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Care</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedural Skills</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal and Communication Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Anesthesiology Selective Assessment Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedural Skills</th>
<th>Successful Attempt?</th>
<th>Attending Initial</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. IV access attempt</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. IV access attempt</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bag-mask Ventilation</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Intubation attempt with GlideScope</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Intubation attempt with Laryngoscope</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Laryngeal Mask Airway attempt</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Brief-case presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- Class of 2022 medical students showed interest and elected to participate in the rotation
- Current selective incorporates opportunities to: (1) work with anesthesiologist physician attendings, residents, and advanced practice providers in clinical and operating room settings, (2) practice airway management, line placement, and other technical skills on patients, and (3) attend and participate in formal didactic lectures, grand rounds, and simulation sessions

Discussion

- Opportunities to assess students’ perspectives remain
- Next steps moving forward:
  - Creating surveys and obtaining IRB approval to disseminate the surveys to medical students pre- and post-anesthesia selective
  - Analyze data using student evaluation of the curriculum, exposure to the anesthesiology field, understanding and comfort with anesthesia and perioperative concepts and skills
  - Assess medical students’ interest in pursuing a career in anesthesiology pre- and post-selective
  - Continue to incorporate faculty and student feedback to create an optimal educational experience for future UNM medical students
- Limitations included single center institution and small sample size due to recent implementation of curriculum

References