

Supplemental Guide: Medical Microbiology



November 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
PATIENT CARE	4
CLINICAL CONSULTATION	6
MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE	8
FUNDAMENTAL AND DIAGNOSTIC KNOWLEDGE TEST METHODOLOGY TEST DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION/VERIFICATION CLINICAL REASONING	11 12
SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE	15
PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) SYSTEMS NAVIGATION FOR PATIENT-CENTERED CARE PHYSICIAN ROLE IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ACCREDITATION, COMPLIANCE, AND QUALITY UTILIZATION INFECTION PREVENTION, ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP, AND PUBLIC HEALTH	17 20 22
PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT	27
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND SCHOLARSHIPREFLECTIVE PRACTICE AND COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL GROWTH	
PROFESSIONALISM	32
PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS SELF-AWARENESS AND HELP-SEEKING	35
INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS	38
PATIENT- AND FAMILY-CENTERED COMMUNICATION	40
MAPPING OF 1.0 TO 2.0	45
RESOURCES	46

Milestones Supplemental Guide

This document provides additional guidance and examples for the Medical Microbiology Milestones. This is not designed to indicate any specific requirements for each level, but to provide insight into the thinking of the Milestone Work Group.

Included in this document is the intent of each Milestone and examples of what a Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) might expect to be observed/assessed at each level. Also included are suggested assessment models and tools for each subcompetency, references, and other useful information.

Review this guide with the CCC and faculty members. As the program develops a shared mental model of the Milestones, consider creating an individualized guide (Supplemental Guide Template available) with institution/program-specific examples, assessment tools used by the program, and curricular components.

Additional tools and references, including the Milestones Guidebook, Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook, and Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows, are available on the Resources page of the Milestones section of the ACGME website.

Patient Care 1: Clinical Consultation Overall Intent: To provide effective and thorough clinical consultations	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Describes the use of a consultation and lists available resources useful in consultation	 Uses test catalog to recommend appropriate specimens for anaerobe testing Uses PubMed to access most recent literature for Coxiella burnetii testing Discusses with program director the fellow's impact on clinical care through consultation
Level 2 For simple consultations, delineates the clinical question, obtains additional clinical information, accesses available resources, recommends next steps, and documents it, with assistance	 Calls clinical care provider to obtain rationale for work-up of a mixed abdominal fluid culture Consults with technologist regarding the reporting of a single set of blood cultures positive for a <i>Dermabacter</i> species
Level 3 For complex consultations, delineates the clinical question, obtains additional clinical information, applies relevant resources, and recommends next steps with assistance; manages simple consultations independently	 Calls clinical care provider regarding an apparent false positive malaria antigen test Calls antimicrobial stewardship team for add-on requests of a multidrug resistant gramnegative rod
Level 4 Manages complex consultations independently	 Makes decisions on the appropriateness of broad-range polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based on chart review of clinical history, culture/histopathology results, and discussions with healthcare team and adds a note in the electronic health record (EHR) Appends an additional interpretation to explain human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-viral load trend
Level 5 Recognized as an expert in providing comprehensive consultations	 Receives directed consults from clinical care providers Contributes to institutional guidelines for sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Multisource evaluation Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 College of American Pathologists (CAP) Today. The what and why of diagnostic management teams. https://www.captodayonline.com/diagnostic-management-teams/. 2020. Marques MB, Anastasi J, Ashwood E, et al. The clinical pathologist as a consultant. Am J Clin Pathol. 2011;135(1):11-12. https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/135/1/11/1765622. 2020.
	McMullen AR, Anderson NW, Burnham CA, Education Committee of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists. Pathology consultation on Influenza

diagnosis. Am J Clin Pathol. 2016;145(4):440-448. https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/145/4/440/2195467 . 2020. Verna R, Velazquez AB, Laposata M. Reducing diagnostic errors worldwide through diagnostic management teams. Ann Lab Med. 2019;39(2):121-124.
http://www.annlabmed.org/journal/view.html?volume=39&number=2&spage=121. 2020.

Patient Care 2: Test Performance and Organism Identification Overall Intent: To perform, troubleshoot, and teach common and complex microbiology tests	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Observes and assists in the performance of common microbiology tests	 Observes catalase and oxidase testing during bench rotations Subcultures plates Reads Gram stains from colonies
Level 2 Performs common microbiology tests and observes and assists in the performance of uncommon (i.e., esoteric) microbiology tests	Performs catalase and oxidase testing during bench rotations Performs antimicrobial susceptibility testing Spots matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight mass spectrometer (MALDI-TOF MS) targets
Level 3 Supervises and troubleshoots microbiology tests in all clinical scenarios	 Identifies trailing effect on antimicrobial susceptibility panel Supervises other learners in microbiology in unknown work-ups or delta checks
Level 4 Teaches the features of microbiology testing, including the use, strengths, and limitations of the various methods of testing	 Demonstrates/discusses interesting or problem cases with infectious disease fellows or other learners at laboratory rounds Discusses a false positive malaria antigen test with clinicians Discusses limits of quantitation and limits of detection of molecular tests with infectious disease fellows or other learners
Level 5 Independently chooses the optimal test based on an analysis of test characteristics and patient population variables for any clinical scenario	Selects best point of care methodology for influenza testing Develops algorithm for respiratory virus testing
Assessment Models or Tools	 Competency checklist Completion of unknowns Direct observation Multisource evaluation Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines & Guidance Library. https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.html . 2020.

Patient Care 3: Test Interpretation and Reporting Overall Intent: To interpret common and complex microbiology tests and effectively report the results	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Identifies common pre-analytic,	Describes reasons for specimen rejection criteria
analytic, and post-analytic issues that can affect results and interpretation of testing	 Understands why urine over 30 mL is rejected for gonorrhea/chlamydia testing Gets involved in reporting a positive blood culture result on a discharged patient
Level 2 Interprets and reports common	Does the second reading for manual test results
microbiology tests with guidance	Interprets Gram stain from blood culture
Level 3 Independently interprets and reports common microbiology tests, and interprets and	Reads primary Gram stains of sputum specimens for acceptability and interpretation of inflammatory cells and organism morphology
reports complex microbiology tests with guidance	Does preliminary read and reporting of blood parasite smears
Level 4 Independently interprets and reports microbiology tests in all clinical scenarios	 Interprets antibiotic test results and identifies multidrug resistant <i>Pseudomonas</i> aeruginosa and communicates to the infectious disease or infection prevention team Interprets complex fourth-generation HIV testing results
Level 5 Develops procedures for test	Writes procedure for yeast susceptibility testing
performance, interpretation, and reporting	Develops procedures for interpretation and reporting of Lyme disease
Assessment Models or Tools	Assessment of procedure knowledge
	Direct observation
	Multisource evaluation
	Portfolio review
	Review by faculty of specific procedure developed
	Unknown session
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines and Guidance Library. https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.html. 2020.
	 Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Documents (M35, M48, MM17). https://clsi.org/standards/products/microbiology/documents/. 2020.
	Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). IDSA Practice Guidelines. https://www.idsociety.org/practiceguidelines#/name_na_str/ASC/0/+/ . 2020.
	 Jorgensen JH, Pfaller MA. Manual of Clinical Microbiology. 11th ed. Washington, DC: American Society for Microbiology (ASM); 2015.
	 Leber AL. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook. 4th ed. Washington, DC: ASM; 2015.

Medical Knowledge 1: Fundamental and Diagnostic Knowledge Overall Intent: To be proficient in microorganism identification, susceptibility testing, and resistance mechanisms	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of microorganisms of all groups that are commonly encountered and their role in disease	Describes commonly encountered microorganisms from the major taxonomic groups and the diseases they cause
Demonstrates knowledge of common antibacterial agents	Lists common antibacterial agents and discusses their mechanisms of action
Demonstrates knowledge of common resistance mechanisms in bacteria	Discusses the mechanisms of resistance to antibacterial agents
Level 2 Demonstrates knowledge of the methods required for detection/identification of commonly encountered microorganisms	Shows/teaches other learners the major methods used for the detection of commonly encountered microorganisms
Demonstrates knowledge of guidelines regarding selection of antibacterial agents for testing	Describes the use of the Clinical & Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) M100 document
Demonstrates knowledge in how to detect phenotypic and genotypic antimicrobial resistance mechanisms for bacteria	Provides a tutorial on rounds on the detection of resistance mechanisms in bacteria
Level 3 Demonstrates knowledge of the methods required for detection/identification of novel pathogens and less commonly encountered microorganisms	Gives a tutorial to other learners on advanced detection methods
Demonstrates knowledge of antimicrobial agents for all groups of organisms	Lists common antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents and their mechanisms of action
Demonstrates knowledge of resistance mechanisms for all pathogens	Discusses the mechanisms of resistance to antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents
Level 4 Teaches the features of microorganism detection/identification for all groups of organisms	Reviews optimal detection methods with rotating residents or other learners for all types of pathogens

Demonstrates knowledge of guidelines regarding selection of all agents for testing	Describes guidelines for the selection of antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents
Demonstrates knowledge in how to detect phenotypic and genotypic antimicrobial resistance mechanisms for all pathogens	 Provides a tutorial on rounds on detection of antiviral resistance mechanisms Describes the factors that need to be considered to set a clinical antimicrobial breakpoint
Level 5 Consistently uses the literature or other means to investigate difficult to identify or novel pathogens	Performs a literature review when investigating the etiology of challenging infections
Demonstrates knowledge of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and clinical use of antimicrobials	Describes what data are required to revise a clinical antimicrobial breakpoint
Contributes to the literature and/or guideline development regarding resistance detection	Volunteers for and actively contributes to a CLSI committee
Assessment Models or Tools	Antimicrobial stewardship committee participation
	Direct observation
	Journal Club
	Multisource evaluation
	Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 CLSI. Login Page. http://em100.edaptivedocs.net/Login.aspx? ga=2.166274238.1667693071.1575752274-529674231.1575645304. Johnson EM. Antifungal susceptibility testing and resistance. In: Kibbler CC, Barton R, Gow NAR, Howell S, MacCallum DM, Manuel RJ. Oxford Textbook of Medical Mycology. Oxford, UK; 2018. Jorgensen JH, Ferraro MJ. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing: a review of general principles and contemporary practices. Clin Infect Dis. 2009;49(11)1749-1755. https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/49/11/1749/344384. 2020. Miller JM, Binnicker MJ, Campbell S, et al. A guide to utilization of the microbiology laboratory for diagnosis of infectious diseases: 2018 updated by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American Society for Microbiology. Clin Infect Dis. 2018;67(6):e1-e94. https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/67/6/e1/5046039. 2020.

• Procop GW, Church DL, Hall GS, et al. *Koneman's Color Atlas & Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer; 2017.

Medical Knowledge 2: Test Methodology Overall Intent: To demonstrate knowledge of test platforms, methods, and integration into testing algorithms	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of basic test platforms and methodology	 Discusses with program director the purpose of various media for growth of bacteria, fungi, and mycobacteria Describes how MALDI-TOF MS functions and the procedures for each organism group Describes mycobacteria broth culture instrumentation
Level 2 Demonstrates knowledge of complex test platforms and methodology	 Describes differences between broth microdilution, disk diffusion, and other microbiology susceptibility testing methods Lists three indicators of possible false positive reactions in a nucleic acid amplification test
Level 3 Demonstrates knowledge of the use and methods of outsourced microbiology tests	 Reviews select send-out tests Coordinates submission of botulism samples to the public health laboratory
Level 4 Demonstrates knowledge of the integration of different test methodology and platforms (e.g., testing algorithms)	 Describes the tests and order of performance in the reverse algorithm for syphilis testing Describes the tests and order of performance for initial diagnosis of HIV
Level 5 Identifies optimal methodology for novel test development	Investigates the utility of serology versus PCR for the detection of Powassan virus in endemic settings
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation Journal Club Multisource evaluation Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	CDC. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015. https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/tg-2015-print.pdf, 2020.

Medical Knowledge 3: Test Development and Validation/Verification Overall Intent: To demonstrate knowledge of requirements for validation/verification of simple and complex tests	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of the necessity of test validation/verification	Discusses the importance of test validation/verification Lists potential adverse outcomes from poorly validated/verified tests
Level 2 Demonstrates knowledge of the essentials of test development and test validation/verification	 Defines clinical and analytical sensitivity, specificity, limits of detection, and limits of quantitation Defines positive and negative predictive values and understands the impact of prevalence on these values
Level 3 Identifies requirements for test verification of a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved test	 Discusses the need for demonstrating accuracy, precision, and reportable range for a new test Drafts a verification plan for Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved herpes simplex virus (HSV) PCR
Level 4 Identifies requirements for test validation of a laboratory-developed test	Drafts a validation plan for a laboratory-developed BK viral load test
Level 5 Designs and implements a new laboratory-developed test	Develops a PCR test for Powassan virus
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Journal Club Multisource evaluation Objective written examination Portfolio review Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	CLSI. MM17: Validation and Verification of Multiplex Nucleic Acid Assays, 2nd ed. https://clsi.org/standards/products/molecular-diagnostics/documents/mm17/. 2020.

Medical Knowledge 4: Clinical Reasoning	
Overall Intent: To approach a diagnostic work-up in an informed and logical manner using appropriate resources to guide decisions	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates a basic framework for clinical reasoning	Navigates the EHR, laboratory information system (LIS), internet, and literature to locate necessary information and assess the validity of the test request
Identifies resources to inform clinical reasoning	
Level 2 Demonstrates clinical reasoning to determine relevant information	Extracts pertinent clinical findings from the patient's medical record and distinguishes between relevant and extraneous data to inform culture work-up and follow-up testing
Selects relevant resources based on various scenarios to inform decisions	Is aware of and uses appropriate algorithms, consensus guidelines, and published literature
Level 3 Synthesizes information to inform clinical reasoning, with assistance	 Employs CLSI guidelines to report appropriate susceptibility testing for cerebrospinal fluid cultures Understands and describes the scientific basis for current screening recommendations for Human papillomavirus (HPV)
Seeks and integrates evidence-based information to inform diagnostic decision making in complex cases, with assistance	Uses the published literature and recommendations to correctly direct the work-up of a patient who traveled to a Zika-endemic area
Level 4 Independently synthesizes information to inform clinical reasoning in complex cases	Uses histopathologic, culture, and molecular data to interpret next generation sequencing testing requests and results
Independently seeks out, analyzes, and applies relevant original research to diagnostic decision making in complex clinical cases	Uses clinical, laboratory, and epidemiologic data to guide work-up of a patient with infectious encephalitis
Level 5 Demonstrates intuitive approach to clinical reasoning for complex cases Contributes to the literature or knowledge base that informs diagnostic decision making	Sought by attending faculty members and/or clinicians for expertise
Assessment Models or Tools	 Case Logs Direct observation Multisource evaluations Portfolio review Presentations at multidisciplinary rounds

Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	Clinical reasoning relies on appropriate foundational knowledge that requires the trainee
	to apply that knowledge in a thoughtful, deliberate and logical fashion to clinical cases to
	inform clinical care
	 Iobst WF, Trowbride R, Philibert I. Teaching and assessing critical reasoning through the
	use of entrustment. J Grad Med Educ. 2013;5(3):517-518.
	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3771188/. 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (QI)	
Overall Intent: To engage in the analysis and management of patient safety events, including relevant communication with patients,	
families, and health care professionals; to cond Milestones	uct a QI project Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of common patient safety events	Identifies common patient safety events including sentinel events and near-misses
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Describes how to enter a report into the institutional-specific electronic reporting tool
Demonstrates knowledge of basic QI methodologies and metrics	Describes root cause analysis and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle
Level 2 Identifies system factors that lead to patient safety events	Identifies that a trash can being placed next to specimen accession area may result in specimens being discarded inadvertently
Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems (simulated or actual)	Is aware of improvement initiatives within their scope of practice
Describes departmental and institutional QI initiatives	Enters a report into the institutional-specific electronic reporting tool
Level 3 Participates in analysis of patient safety events (simulated or actual)	Reviews a patient safety event and communicates with provider about such an event
Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to clinicians and/or patients and families (simulated or actual)	Recognizes a mislabeled specimen and follows up with appropriate laboratory and clinical personnel
Participates in departmental and institutional QI initiatives	Participates in a study of blood culture contamination rates
Level 4 Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies (simulated or actual)	Collaborates with the infection control team to analyze and identify the increase of central line-associated blood stream infection
Discloses patient safety events to clinicians and/or patients and families, as appropriate (simulated or actual)	Contacts the clinical provider to report a lost cerebrospinal fluid specimen

Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a QI project	Provides in-service to phlebotomists regarding blood culture contamination rates
Level 5 Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety events	Leads a project to assess and implement a blood diversion device to reduce blood culture contamination rates
Role models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events	
Creates, implements, and assesses QI initiatives at the institutional or community level	
Assessment Models or Tools	 Chart or other system documentation by fellow Direct observation in meetings or in the laboratory Documentation of QI or patient safety project processes or outcomes E-module multiple choice tests Portfolio Reflection Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Institute of Healthcare Improvement. http://www.ihi.org/Pages/default.aspx. 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 2: Systems Navigation for Patient-Centered Care		
Overall Intent: To effectively navigate the health care system, including the interdisciplinary team and other care providers, to adapt care to		
a specific patient population to ensure high-quality patient outcomes		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of case coordination	Identifies the members of the interprofessional team including laboratory technologists, other specialty physicians, nurses, and consultants, and describes their roles	
Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions of care and hand-offs	Identifies components of social determinants of health and how they impact the delivery of patient care	
Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and disparities		
Level 2 Coordinates care of patients/specimens in routine cases effectively using interprofessional teams	Contacts interprofessional team members to discuss resource needs for specimens of limited quantity	
Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in routine situations	Communicates with on-call microbiologist about an incoming specimen for malaria	
Identifies pathology's role in population and community health needs and inequities for the local population	Knows which patients are at high risk for specific health outcomes related to health literacy concerns, cost of testing or therapy, LGBTQ status, etc.	
Level 3 Coordinates care of patients/specimens in complex cases effectively using interprofessional teams	At interdisciplinary case conferences, engages in appropriate discussion of antimicrobial susceptibility testing options and impact on therapy for complex cases	
Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in complex situations	Appreciates the need for and uses clinic or local resources, such as when coordinating microorganism identification from an outside hospital	
Identifies opportunities for pathology to participate in community and population health	Notifies the health department about an increase in the number of cases of Legionella pneumophila	
Level 4 Models effective coordination of patient- centered care among different disciplines and specialties	Educates students and team members regarding the engagement of appropriate interprofessional team members, as needed for each patient and/or case	

Models and advocates for safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems	Performs quality reviews and correlations between direct Gram stain and culture results
Recommends and/or participates in changing and adapting practice to provide for the needs of communities and populations	 Identifies patient populations at high risk for poor health care outcomes related to diabetic foot infections due to health disparities and inequities in screening and implements strategies to improve care
Level 5 Analyzes the process of care coordination and leads in the design and	 Works with ambulatory site team members to analyze laboratory services and optimize the test menu in that setting
implementation of improvements	Works with a QI mentor to identify better hand-off tools for on-call microbiology services
Improves quality of transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes	Effectively uses resources, such as telehealth and telepathology for proactive outreach to prevent diagnostic errors in Gram stain interpretation at regional hospitals
Leads innovations and advocates for	Becomes certified in LEAN/Six Sigma
populations and communities with health care inequities	Participates in high-level institutional safety oversight committee
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation (including discussion during rounds, case work-up and case presentations)
	Interdisciplinary rounds for high-risk patients/cases Interdisciplinary rounds for high-risk patients/cases
	 Lectures/workshops on social determinants of health or population health with identification of local resources
	Multisource feedback from the interprofessional team
	Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	Review of sign-out tools, use and review of checklists between pathology services
Notes or Resources	 Aller RD. Pathology's contributions to disease surveillance: sending our data to public health officials and encouraging our clinical colleagues to do so. <i>Archives of Path Lab Med.</i> 2009;133(6):926-932. https://www.archivesofpathology.org/doi/10.1043/1543-2165-133.6.926?url_ver=Z39.88-2003𝔯_id=ori:rid:crossref.org𝔯_dat=cr_pub%3dpubmed.2020. CAP. Competency Model for Pathologists. https://learn.cap.org/content/cap/pdfs/Competency_Model.pdf.2020. CDC. Population Health Training in Place Program (PH-TIPP). https://www.cdc.gov/pophealthtraining/whatis.html. 2020.

• Kaplan KJ. In pursuit of patient-centered care. http://tissuepathology.com/2016/03/29/in-pursuit-of-patient-centered-care/#axzz5e7nSsAns. 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 3: Physician Role in Health Care System	
Overall Intent: To understand the physician's role in the complex health care system and how to optimize the system to improve patient care and the health system's performance	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Identifies key components of the complex health care system (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility, finance, personnel, technology)	Names systems and providers involved in test ordering and payment
Describes basic health payment systems (e.g., government, private, public, uninsured care) and practice models	Recognizes that there are different payment systems, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs (VA), and commercial third-party payers
Level 2 Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts patient care	Understands the impact of health plans on testing options and reimbursement; demonstrates knowledge that is theoretical, but is not yet able to apply this knowledge to the care of patients without some direct attending input and/or prompting
Documents testing detail and explains the impact of documentation on billing and reimbursement	Documents appropriate code for interpretation of malaria or blood smear that affords accurate billing
Level 3 Discusses how individual practice affects the broader system (e.g., test utilization, turnaround time)	Evaluates utilization review queue and consults with clinicians regarding inappropriate testing and triage
Engages with clinicians and/or patients in shared decision making, such as use of preauthorization for complex testing	Consults with clinicians regarding 16S testing on formalin fixed paraffin-embedded tissue
Level 4 Manages various components of the complex health care system to provide efficient and effective patient care and transitions of care	 Works collaboratively with surgical nursing or anatomic pathology personnel to ensure tissue specimens from the operating room are also submitted for culture Understands difference between billing/reimbursement for inpatient versus outpatient and in-house versus reference laboratory testing
Practices and advocates for cost effective patient care with consideration of the limitations of each patient's payment model	Develops optimal use of 1,3-beta-D-glucan testing in various patient populations
Level 5 Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient, and effective patient care and transitions of care	Implements point of care testing for respiratory viruses for all hospitals in a network

Participates in health policy advocacy activities Assessment Models or Tools	 Lobbies for policies concerning strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance Direct observation Portfolio review QI project
Curriculum Manning	Review of testing usage audit
Notes or Resources	 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Major Physician Measurement Sets. https://www.ahrq.gov/talkingquality/measures/setting/physician/measurement-sets.html. 2020. AHRQ. Measuring the Quality of Physician Care. https://www.ahrq.gov/talkingquality/measures/setting/physician/index.html. 2020. The Commonwealth Fund. Health Reform Resource Center. http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives-and-data/health-reform-resource-center#/f:@facasubcategoriesfacet63677=[Individual%20and%20Employer%20Responsibility. 2020. The Commonwealth Fund. Health System Data Center. http://datacenter.commonwealthfund.org/? ga=2.110888517.1505146611.1495417431-1811932185.1495417431#ind=1/sc=1. 2020. Dzau VJ, McClellan M, Burke S, et al. Vital directions for health and health care: priorities from a National Academy of Medicine Initiative. NAM Perspectives. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. https://nam.edu/vital-directions-for-health-health-care-priorities-from-a-national-academy-of-medicine-initiative/. 2020. The Kaiser Family Foundation. www.kff.org. 2020. The Kaiser Family Foundation: Topic: health reform. https://www.kff.org/topic/health-reform/. 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 4: Accreditation, Compliance, and Quality Overall Intent: To gain in-depth knowledge of the components of laboratory accreditation, regulatory compliance, and quality management **Milestones Examples Level 1** Demonstrates knowledge that • Attends departmental quality assurance/quality control meetings, morbidity and mortality (M and M) conferences and accreditation/regulatory summation meetings laboratories must be accredited Discusses the need for quality control and proficiency testing Level 2 Demonstrates knowledge of the • Demonstrate knowledge of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) checklist as a components of laboratory accreditation and part of laboratory accreditation processes regulatory compliance (e.g., Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments and others), either through training or experience Interprets quality data and charts and trends, Interprets standard curves for viral load testing including proficiency testing results, with • Interprets daily instrument quality control and proficiency test reports • Monitors positivity rates of *Chlamydia trachomatis* nucleic acid amplification tests for assistance environmental contamination **Level 3** *Identifies the differences between* • Completes inspector training for CAP to understand process for achieving/maintaining accreditation and regulatory compliance; regulatory/accreditation compliance discusses the process for achieving accreditation and maintaining regulatory compliance Demonstrates knowledge of the components of Begins to actively participate in regular laboratory quality management duties a laboratory quality management plan Monitors blood culture contamination rates Discusses implications of proficiency testing Reviews patient charts to understand if proficiency testing failures could have impacted failures patient care Level 4 Participates in an internal or external • Performs mock or self-inspection using a CAP checklist laboratory inspection Reviews the quality management plan to Assists in developing a strategy for handling quality control or proficiency testing failures identify areas for improvement

Performs analysis and review of proficiency	
testing failures and recommends a course of	
action, with oversight	
Level 5 Serves as a resource for accreditation at the regional or national level	Serves on a committee for a regional or national accreditation agency
Creates and follows a comprehensive quality management plan	Oversees laboratory quality management as part of duties as a section director
Formulates a response for proficiency testing failures	Writes a proficiency testing failure investigation report
Assessment Models or Tools	 Assignment of duties for departmental or hospital quality assurance/quality control committees
	Documentation of inspector training and participation in fellow portfolio
	Presentation at M and M conferences
	QI projects
	Review of reports
	Rotation evaluations
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	American Society for Clinical Pathology. Laboratory Management University.
	https://store.ascp.org/productlisting/productdetail?productId=52290189%20%20. 2020.
	CAP. Inspector Training Options. https://www.cap.org/laboratory-
	improvement/accreditation/inspector-training. 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 5: Utilization Overall Intent: To understand the microbiologist's role in test implementation and utilization	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Identifies general microbiology work	Rotates on benches
practices and workflow (e.g., specialized	Becomes familiar with the test menu and specimen turnaround times
molecular testing, serology, and pre-analytics)	
Level 2 Explains rationale for optimizing	Analyzes the literature for optimal practice guidelines
utilization	Reviews hepatitis C virus serology logs to detect repeat testing
Level 3 Identifies opportunities to optimize	• Performs internal audit to detect inappropriate specimen submission for <i>C. difficile</i> testing
utilization of pathology resources	Contacts clinician regarding inappropriate requests for susceptibility testing
Level 4 Initiates efforts to optimize utilization	 Compiles retrospective data on Histoplasma urinary antigen orders on patients with solitary pulmonary nodules
	 Works with the order entry system to implement best practice alerts for appropriate testing of C. difficile
Level 5 Completes a utilization review and	Publishes the results of intervention of completed utilization review
implements change	Leads an effort to modify or eliminate an ineffective test from test menu
	Presents project intervention at international meeting or podium presentation
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Measure impact of intervention
	Portfolio review
	Review of utilization review logs
	Scholarly activity (e.g., abstracts, conference presentations)
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	American College of Physicians. High Value Care. https://www.acponline.org/clinical-
	information/high-value-care, 2020.

Systems-Based Practice 6: Infection Prevention, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Public Health Overall Intent: To gain in-depth knowledge of and experience in infection prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, and public health	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Identifies the role of the microbiology laboratory in infection prevention	Explains the role of the microbiology laboratory in infection prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, and public health
Identifies the role of the microbiology laboratory in antimicrobial stewardship	
Identifies the role and requirements of the microbiology laboratory in public health	
Level 2 Attends infection prevention meetings and discusses initiatives to enhance infection prevention	• Explain the steps necessary to document the destruction of <i>Brucella</i> species
Attends antimicrobial stewardship meetings and discusses the antimicrobial stewardship initiatives	Reviews and discusses the American Society for Microbiology laboratory response network documents
Explains select agents and other agents of reportable diseases and means of their control, laboratory safety, and destruction	
Level 3 Analyzes data and coordinates initiatives to support hospital infection prevention committee, with guidance	Compiles data for an outbreak investigation in the transplant unit
Analyzes susceptibility data and coordinates initiatives to support antimicrobial stewardship, with guidance	Reviews carbapenem resistance in the intensive care unit (ICU)
Employs resources to interface with public health officials/ departments, with guidance	Discusses a possible case of botulism with public health department
Level 4 Independently analyzes data and coordinates initiatives to support hospital infection prevention committee	Initiates intervention for improved quality of hand hygiene for control of norovirus outbreak

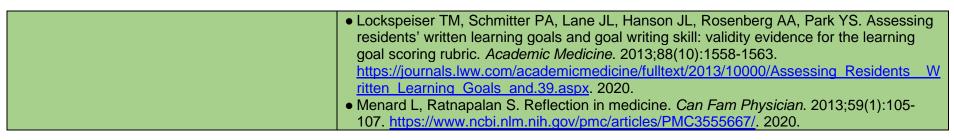
Independently analyzes susceptibility data and coordinates initiatives to support antimicrobial stewardship	Works with antimicrobial stewardship to remove Ciprofloxacin reporting from urine cultures
Independently interfaces with public health	Coordinates collection and transport of appropriate specimens to the public health facility
officials/ departments	for testing in a suspected infant botulism case
Level 5 Leads an infection prevention initiative	Detects an increase in methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the neonatal intensive care unit, gathers and analyzes data, and works with a multidisciplinary
Independently analyzes susceptibility data and creates an antibiogram	team to implement an intervention
Leads a collaboration with public health to complete a project	Works with public health agency to identify the epidemiology of HIV by zip code
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Measure impact of intervention
	Multisource evaluation
	Portfolio
	Scholarly activity (e.g., abstracts, conference presentations)
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 1: Evidence-Based Practice and Scholarship Overall Intent: To incorporate evidence into clinical practice and is involved in contributing to the body of knowledge in pathology	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Demonstrates how to access and select applicable evidence	Recognizes that molecular testing is useful in the work-up of Whipple's disease or herpes encephalitis
Is aware of the need for patient privacy, autonomy, and consent as applied to clinical research	Identifies the need for an Institutional Review Board (IRB) when collecting cases for a possible research project
Level 2 Identifies and applies the best available evidence to guide diagnostic work-up of simple cases	Reviews guidelines and suggests algorithms for syphilis testing
Develops knowledge of the basic principles of research (e.g., demographics, Institutional Review Board, human subjects), including how research is evaluated, explained to patients, and applied to patient care	Drafts an IRB protocol with attending oversight
Level 3 Identifies and applies the best available evidence to guide diagnostic work-up of complex cases	Recommend the ordering of 16s sequencing on tissue from culture-negative endocarditis
Applies knowledge of the basic principles of research such as informed consent and research protocols to clinical practice, with supervision	Drafts an IRB protocol with minimal oversight Submits an abstract for a national meeting
Level 4 Critically appraises and applies evidence to guide care, even in the face of conflicting data	Appropriately researches the primary literature and clinical information to explain discrepant molecular findings
Proactively and consistently applies knowledge of the basic principles of research such as informed consent and research protocols to clinical practice	Submits a paper for publication

Level 5 Teaches others to critically appraise and apply evidence for complex cases; and/or participates in the development of guidelines Suggests improvements to research regulations	 Moderates a discussion with clinicians over disparate molecular findings with HIV genotyping to recommend an alternative test method based on review of the primary literature Submits a grant proposal
and/or substantially contributes to the primary literature through basic, translational, or clinical research	Submits a grant proposal
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Formal presentation at a regional, national, or international meeting
	Review of IRB submission or grant proposals
	•
Notes or Resources	
	 Mandal J, Acharya S, Parija SC. Ethics in human research. <i>Trop Parasitol</i>. 2011;1(1):2-3. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3593469/. 2020.
	 Masic I, Miokovic M, Muhamedagic B. Evidence based medicine - new approaches and challenges. 2008;16(4):219-225.
	National Institutes of Health. Write Your Application. https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-
	apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm. 2020.
	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The Belmont Report.
	https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/read-the-belmont-
Curriculum Mapping Notes or Resources	 Formal presentation at a regional, national, or international meeting Portfolio review Review of IRB submission or grant proposals Institutional IRB guidelines Mandal J, Acharya S, Parija SC. Ethics in human research. <i>Trop Parasitol</i>. 2011;1(1):2-3 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3593469/. 2020. Masic I, Miokovic M, Muhamedagic B. Evidence based medicine - new approaches and challenges. 2008;16(4):219-225. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3789163/. 2020. National Institutes of Health. Write Your Application. https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-toapply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm. 2020. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The Belmont Report.

Practice-Based Learning and II	mprovement 2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth	
Overall Intent: To seek clinical performance information to improve care; reflects on all domains of practice, personal interactions, and		
behaviors, and their impact on technologists, colleagues and patients (if applicable) (reflective mindfulness); develop clear objectives and		
goals for improvement in some form of a learning		
Milestones	Examples Discussed learning goals and expertunities for personal improvement with program	
Level 1 Accepts responsibility for personal and professional development by establishing goals	Discusses learning goals and opportunities for personal improvement with program director	
Identifies the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Makes specific goals that are reasonable to execute and achieve	
Actively seeks opportunities to improve		
Level 2 Demonstrates openness to receiving performance data and feedback in order to inform goals	Increasingly identifies performance gaps in terms of diagnostic skills and daily work; uses feedback from others	
Analyzes and reflects on the factors which contribute to gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Seeks a mentor and asks the mentor about performance and opportunities for improvement	
Designs and implements a learning plan, with assistance	Uses feedback with a goal of improving communication skills with technologists, peers/colleagues, and staff members	
Level 3 Seeks performance data and feedback	Meets regularly with mentor	
with humility	Takes input from technologists, peers/colleagues, and supervisors to gain complex insight into personal strengths and opportunities for improvement	
Institutes behavioral change(s) to narrow the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Incorporates feedback and is appreciative and not defensive	
Independently creates and implements a learning plan	Refines goals such that attaining them is reasonable and measurable	
Level 4 Actively and consistently seeks performance data and feedback with humility	Actively reviews plans with mentor and seeks feedback	

Critically evaluates the effectiveness of behavioral changes in narrowing the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and improves it when necessary	Consistently identifies ongoing gaps and chooses areas for further development
Level 5 Models seeking performance data and accepting feedback with humility	Actively discusses learning goals with supervisors and colleagues
Coaches others in reflective practice	Serves as a mentor to other learners
Facilitates the design and implementing learning plans for others	Encourages other learners on the team to consider how their behavior affects the rest of the team
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Feedback from mentor Multisource evaluation Portfolio review Review of goals and accomplishments Review of learning plan Self-assessment
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 Burke AE, Benson B, Englander R, Carraccio C, Hicks PJ. Domain of competence: practice-based learning and improvement. <i>Acad Pediatr</i>. 2014;14: S38-S54. https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(13)00333-1/fulltext. 2020. Hewson MG, Little ML. Giving feedback in medical education: verification of recommended techniques. <i>J Gen Intern Med</i>. 1998;13(2):111-116. <a 08000="" 2009="" academicmedicine="" fulltext="" href="https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3113/f34ae09505ef92cb59ca804c82af46f3474c.pdf?ga=2.5963188.62939443.1581441354-545033232.1580407008. 2020. Hojat M, Veloski JJ, Gonnella JS. Measurement and correlates of physicians' lifelong learning. <i>Academic Medicine</i>. 2009;84(8):1066-1074. https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/fulltext/2009/08000/Measurement_and_Correlates_of_Physicians_Lifelong.21.aspx. 2020. Koshy K, Limb C, Gundogan B, Whitehurst K, Jafree DJ. Reflective practice in health care and how to reflect effectively. <i>Int J Surg Oncol</i>. 2017;2(6):e20. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5673148/. 2020.



Professionalism 1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles		
	Overall Intent: To recognize and address lapses in ethical and professional behavior, demonstrates ethical and professional behaviors, and	
use appropriate resources for managing ethical		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Demonstrates knowledge of the ethical	Identifies and describes potential triggers for professionalism lapses	
principles underlying informed consent, surrogate decision making, advance directives, confidentiality, error disclosure, stewardship of limited resources, and related topics	 Recognizes effect of fatigue on professional behavior and communication Maintains patient confidentiality and sensitivity to protected health information (PHI) in public spaces 	
Describes when and how to appropriately report professionalism lapses, including strategies for addressing common barriers; identifies and describes potential triggers for professionalism lapses	 Discusses the basic principles underlying ethics (beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, autonomy) and professionalism (professional values and commitments), and how they apply in various situations Recognizes appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas 	
Level 2 Analyzes straightforward situations using ethical principles	Demonstrates professional behavior in routine situations and uses ethical principles to analyze straightforward situations	
Demonstrates insight into professional behavior in routine situations; takes responsibility for one's own professionalism lapses	 Apologizes for the lapse when appropriate and takes steps to make amends, if needed Articulates strategies for preventing similar lapses in the future and monitors and responds to fatigue, hunger, stress, etc. in self and team members 	
Level 3 Recognizes the need and uses relevant resources to seek help in managing and resolving complex ethical situations	 Analyzes complex situations, such as how the clinical situation evokes strong emotions, conflicts (or perceived conflicts) between patients/providers/staff members The fellow navigates situations when the standard operating procedure is not clear regarding reporting of bone culture results, or when the matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI) workflow causes congestion and delayed reporting of important results. 	
Demonstrates professional behavior in complex or stressful situations	Informing clinical colleagues of the limited utility of testing or the possible fiscal impact of testing	
Level 4 Independently resolves and manages complex ethical situations	 Actively seeks to consider the perspectives of others Models respect for patients and expects the same from others 	
Recognizes situations that may trigger professionalism lapses and intervenes to prevent lapses in self and others	Uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas by seeking consultation with the program director or other faculty members, ethics board, peer consultation, or literature as needed	

Level 5 Identifies and seeks to address system- level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution	Acts as a mentor for technologists or residents that have had inappropriate outbursts or lapses in acceptable professional behavior
Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations	 Identifies and seeks to address system-wide factors or barriers to promoting a culture of ethical and professional behavior through participation in a work group, committee, or task force
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Mentor and program director observations Multisource evaluation Oral or written self-reflection (e.g., of a personal or observed lapse, ethical dilemma, or systems-level factors)
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 American Board of Internal Medicine, ACP-ASIM Foundation, European Federation of Internal Medicine. Medical professionalism in the new millennium: a physician charter. <i>Ann Intern Med.</i> 2002;136:243-246. http://abimfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Medical-Professionalism-in-the-New-Millenium-A-Physician-Charter.pdf. 2020. American Medical Association. Ethics. https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ama-code-medical-ethics. 2020. Brissette MD, Johnson K, Raciti PM, et al. Perceptions of unprofessional attitudes and behaviors: implications for faculty role modeling and teaching professionalism during pathology residency. <i>Arch Pathol Lab Med.</i> 2017;141:1349-1401. https://www.archivesofpathology.org/doi/10.5858/arpa.2016-0477-CP. 2020. Byyny RL, Papadakis MA, Paauw DS. <i>Medical Professionalism Best Practices</i>. Menlo Park, CA: Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society; 2015. https://alphaomegaalpha.org/pdfs/2015MedicalProfessionalism.pdf. 2019. Conran RM, Powell SZ, Domen RE, et al. Development of professionalism in graduate medical education: a case-based educational approach from the College of American Pathologists' Graduate Medical Education Committee. 2018;5: 2374289518773493. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6039899/. 2020. Domen RE, Johnson K, Conran RM, et al. Professionalism in pathology: a case-based approach as a potential education tool. <i>Arch Pathol Lab Med.</i> 2017;141:215-219. https://www.archivesofpathology.org/doi/10.5858/arpa.2016-0217-CP?url_ver=Z39.88-2003𝔯_id=ori:rid:crossref.org𝔯_dat=cr_pub%3dpubmed. 2020. Domen RE, Talbert ML, Johnson K, et al. Assessment and management of professionalism issues in pathology residency training: results from surveys and a

workshop by the graduate medical education committee of the College of American Pathologists. <i>Acad Pathol.</i> 2015; 2:2374289515592887. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2374289515592887. 2020.
 Levinson W, Ginsburg S, Hafferty FW, Lucey CR. Understanding Medical Professionalism. 1st ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education; 2014.

Professionalism 2: Accountability and Conscientiousness Overall Intent: To take responsibility for one's own actions and the impact on patients and other members of the health care team	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Responds promptly to instructions, requests, or reminders to complete tasks and responsibilities	 Responds promptly to reminders from program administrator to complete work hour logs Timely attendance at conferences Responds promptly to requests to investigate an unusual laboratory result
Level 2 Takes ownership and performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with attention to detail	 Adheres to assigned bench schedule and notifies technical staff of planned absences Completes and documents safety modules, procedure review, and competency requirements Is ready for microbiology rounds with case presentations completed
Level 3 Recognizes situations that may impact own ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner and describes the impact on team	 Completes tasks in stressful situations and preempts issues that would impede completion of tasks Reviews Case Logs, evaluations, and portfolio and develops a learning plan to address gaps/weakness in knowledge, case exposure, and skills
Level 4 Anticipates and intervenes in situations that may impact others' ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	 Identifies issues that could impede laboratory technologists from completing tasks and provides leadership to address those issues Communicates with program director if problem requires a systems-based approach and needs to be addressed at a higher administrative level Takes responsibility for potential adverse outcomes from a mishandled specimen and professionally discusses with the interprofessional team
Level 5 Takes ownership of system outcomes, and implements new strategies when necessary	 Sets up a meeting with the lead technologist to streamline a reflex testing algorithm and follows through with a system-based solution Leads team to find solutions to problem
Assessment Models or Tools	 Compliance with deadlines and timelines Direct observation Multisource evaluations Self-evaluations and reflective tools
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). Ethics Resources. https://monitor.pubs.asahq.org/article.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080.594041 218.1580135281-292330288.1579657750 2020 <a accountability="" and="" href="mailto:Code of conduct from fellow/resident institutional manual https://monitor.pubs.asahq.org/article.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080.594041 2020 <a accountability="" and="" expectations="" href="mailto:Code of conduct from fellow/resident institutional manual https://monitor.pubs.asahq.org/article.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080.594041 https://monitor.pubs.asahq.org/article.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080.594041 https://monitor.pubs.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080.594041 https://monitor.pubs.aspx?articleid=2623185& qa=2.195503080 https://monit

Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Recognizes limitations in the knowledge/skills/ behaviors of self or team, with assistance	 Accepts feedback and exhibits positive responses to criticism Accepts feedback to spend more time studying Gram stain morphology and reaches out to technical staff members to identify helpful resources and shadow technologist performing Gram stain interpretations
Recognizes status of personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Discusses time management with attending to help prioritize research projects
Level 2 Independently recognizes limitations in the knowledge/skills/ behaviors of self or team and seeks help when needed	Identifies possible sources of personal stress or lack of clinical knowledge and independently seeks help
Independently recognizes status of personal and professional well-being and seeks help when needed	 Seeks the attending microbiologist's feedback/opinion on how best to handle an upcoming discussion with a healthcare provider intent on obtaining an unnecessary diagnostic test Identifies deficit in knowledge of antimicrobial spectrums of action and requests resources to use to improve
Level 3 Proposes and implements a plan to remediate or improve the knowledge/ skills/behaviors of self or team, with assistance	 With supervision, assists in developing a personal learning or action plan to address gaps in knowledge or stress and burnout for self or team To address deficits in parasite identification, seeks help from technical staff members and parasitology attendings and develops a strategy to study parasitology morphology texts and review archived clinical specimens
Proposes and implements a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Discusses, with the fellowship director, the plan to use lunch break for exercise once a week
Level 4 Independently develops and implements a plan to remediate or improve the knowledge/skills/ behaviors of self or team	 Independently develops personal learning or action plans for continued personal and professional growth, and limits stress and burnout for self or team To optimize presentation delivery skills, develops a plan to practice giving microbiology lab round presentations to pathology residents the day before presentation to infectious disease staff
Independently develops and implements a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being	Discusses study plans with residents on microbiology rotations to help improve readiness for board certification

Level 5 Serves as a resource or consultant for developing a plan to remediate or improve the knowledge/ skills/behaviors	 Mentors colleagues in self-awareness and establishes health management plans to limit stress and burnout To address deficiencies in resident knowledge in parasitology, presents a high-yield parasitology session to residents on service and create a study set of archived clinical samples for residents to review
Coaches others when responses or limitations in knowledge/skills do not meet professional expectations	Discusses lapses in professionalism with residents and how it could impact their careers
Assessment Models or Tools	 Direct observation Institutional online training modules Multisource evaluation Self-assessment and personal learning plan Self-reflection
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	 ACGME. Tools and Resources. https://www.acqme.org/What-We-Do/Initiatives/Physician-Well-Being/Resources. 2020. Conran RM, Powell SZ, Domen RE, et al. Development of professionalism in graduate medical education: a case-based educational approach from the College of American Pathologists' Graduate Medical Education Committee. <i>Acad Pathol.</i> 2018;5:2374289518773493. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6039899/. 2020. Hicks PJ, Schumacher D, Guralnick S, Carraccio C, Burke AE. Domain of competence: personal and professional development. <i>Acad Pediatr.</i> 2014;14(2 Suppl):S80-97. https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1876-2859(13)00332-X. 2020. Joseph L, Shaw PF, Smoller BR. Perceptions of stress among pathology residents: survey results and some strategies to reduce them. <i>Am J Clin Pathol.</i> 2007;128(6):911-919. https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/128/6/911/1764982. 2020. Local resources, including Employee Assistance Program

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 1: Patient- and Family-Centered Communication Overall Intent: To deliberately use language and behaviors to facilitate constructive relationships among patients and health care providers,	
to identify communication barriers including self-reflection on personal biases, and to organize and lead communication around shared	
decision making	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Uses language and nonverbal behavior to demonstrate respect and establish rapport	 Self-monitors and controls tone, non-verbal responses, and language and asks questions to invite participation Accurately communicates the pathologist's role in the health care system
Identifies common barriers to effective	Identifies common communication barriers in patient care
communication (e.g., language, disability) while accurately communicating one's own role within the health care system	Avoids medical jargon in specimen collection instructions, making sure communication is at the appropriate level to be understood by a layperson
Level 2 Establishes a relationship in straightforward encounters using active listening and clear language	Demonstrates active listening, attention to affect, and questions that explore the optimal approach to daily tasks
Identifies complex barriers to effective	Recognizes health literacy issues and how they impact selection of language to report
communication (e.g., health literacy, cultural)	test results or communicating specimen collection plans • Understands that certain words or phrases in tests results may have a negative impact
Level 3 Sensitively and compassionately	Demonstrates respect and compassion when reporting test results
delivers medical information, with supervision	Demonstrates respect and compassion when reporting test results
When prompted, reflects on personal biases while attempting to minimize communication barriers	Completes a module on recognizing implicit/unconscious bias
Level 4 Independently, sensitively, and compassionately delivers medical information	• Is an active member of patient care team in discussion of test results and/or subsequent recommended studies
and acknowledges uncertainty and conflict	Participates in the sharing of test results in face of medical error
Independently recognizes personal biases while attempting to proactively minimize communication barriers	Reporting test results using language that can be understood by individuals at other levels of health literacy
Level 5 Mentors others in the sensitive and compassionate delivery of medical information	Leads the sharing of test results in face of medical error

Models self-awareness while teaching a contextual approach to minimize communication	
barriers	
Assessment Models or Tools	Direct observation
	Self-assessment including self-reflection exercises
	• Simulation
	Structured case discussions
Curriculum Mapping	
Notes or Resources	• Dintzis SM. Improving pathologist's communication skills. <i>AMA J Ethics</i> . 2016;18(8):802-
	808. https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/improving-pathologists-communication-skills/2016-08 . 2020.
	Dintzis SM, Stetsenko GY, Sitlani CM, et al. Communicating pathology and laboratory errors: anatomic pathologists' and laboratory medical directors' attitudes and experiences. Am. J. Clin Pathol. 2014;135 (5):750-765.
	Am J Clin Pathol. 2011;135(5):760-765. https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/135/5/760/1766306. 2020.
	Harvard University. Project Implicit. https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html . 2020.
	• Laidlaw A, Hart J. Communication skills: an essential component of medical curricula. Part I: Assessment of clinical communication: AMEE Guide No. 51. <i>Med Teach</i> .
	2011;33(1):6-8. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/0142159X.2011.531170 . 2020.
	 Symons AB, Swanson A, McGuigan D, Orrange S, Akl EA. A tool for self-assessment of communication skills and professionalism in residents. <i>BMC Med Educ</i>. 2009;9:1.
	https://bmcmededuc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6920-9-1. 2020.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 2: Interprofessional and Team Communication Overall Intent: To effectively communicate with the health care team including both inter- and intra-departmental team members, in both		
straightforward and complex situations		
Milestones	Examples	
Level 1 Uses language that values all members of the health care team	 Shows respect in health care team communications through words and actions such as in requests for clinical consultation Uses respectful communication to clerical and technical staff members 	
Describes the utility of constructive feedback	Listens to and considers others' points of view and is nonjudgmental and actively engaged	
Level 2 Communicates information effectively with all health care team members	 Follows up in the laboratory with technologists regarding questions about a work-up Demonstrates active listening by fully focusing on the speaker, actively showing verbal and non-verbal signs Communicates clearly and concisely in an organized and timely manner during consultant encounters, as well as with the health care team in general 	
Solicits feedback on performance as a member of the health care team	Seeks feedback from health care team following recommendations	
Level 3 Uses active listening to adapt communication style to fit team needs	Verifies understanding of discussions on rounds by restating key points before communicating to health care team	
Integrates feedback from team members to improve communication	 Raises concerns or provides opinions and feedback when needed to others on the team Respectfully provides feedback to junior members of the medical team for the purposes of improvement or reinforcement of correct knowledge, skills, and attitudes 	
Level 4 Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team to optimize patient care	Summarizes and reports discussions of complex patient results with other members of the health care team	
Communicates feedback and constructive criticism to superiors	 Raises concerns or provides opinions and feedback to superiors on the team Adapts communication strategies in handling complex situations 	
Level 5 Models flexible communication strategies that value input from all health care team members, resolving conflict when needed	 Communicates with all health care team members, resolves conflicts, and provides feedback in any situation Organizes a team meeting to discuss and resolve potentially conflicting points of view regarding sending out samples for metagenomic next-generation sequencing testing 	

Facilitates regular health care team-based feedback in complex situations	 Organizes a process for communicating multidrug resistant organism test results in real time through electronic messaging and validates the process by interactions with clinical teams, infection control, and laboratory staff members
Assessment Models or Tools	Debriefing sessions with attending
	Direct observation
	Multisource assessment
	Portfolio review
	Simulation
Curriculum Mapping	•
Notes or Resources	 Brissette MD, Johnson K, Raciti PM, et al. Perceptions of unprofessional attitudes and behaviors: implications for faculty role modeling and teaching professionalism during pathology residency. <i>Arch Pathol Lab Med.</i> 2017;141:1394-1401. https://www.archivesofpathology.org/doi/10.5858/arpa.2016-0477-CP. 2020. Conran RM, Powell SZ, Domen RE, et al. Development of professionalism in graduate medical education: a case-based educational approach from the College of American Pathologists' Graduate Medical Education Committee. 2018;5: 2374289518773493. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6039899/. 2020. Green M, Parrott T, Cook G., Improving your communication skills. <i>BMJ</i>. 2012;344:e357. https://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.e357. 2020. Henry SG, Holmboe ES, Frankel RM. Evidence-based competencies for improving communication skills in graduate medical education: a review with suggestions for implementation. <i>Med Teach</i>. 2013;35(5):395-403. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/0142159X.2013.769677. 2020. Roth CG, Eldin KW, Padmanabhan V, Freidman EM. Twelve tips for the introduction of emotional intelligence in medical education. <i>Med Teach</i>. 2019;41(7):1-4. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0142159X.2018.1481499. 2020.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 3: Communication within Health Care Systems Overall Intent: To effectively communicate using a variety of methods	
Milestones	Examples
Level 1 Safeguards patient personal health information by communicating through appropriate means as required by institutional policy (e.g., patient safety reports, cell phone/pager usage)	Identifies when it is acceptable to include PHI in various forms of communication When communicating histopathology slide review interpretations, notices one colleague using a personal email address and brings this to the attention of the microbiology attending to safeguard a potential breach in PHI
Identifies institutional and departmental structure for communication of issues	 Upon noticing the acid-fast bacilli room pressure sensor indicating a lack of negative pressure, the fellow notifies personnel in the tuberculosis (TB) room and the microbiology supervisor to address this issue and then pages the attending microbiologist Enters safety report for tiles coming up off of floor that are a trip hazard
Level 2 Selects forms of communication based on context and urgency of the situation	 Upon consultation with lab personnel for isolation of <i>Candida auris</i>, seeks immediate consultation with the attending microbiologist and promptly calls infection prevention Sends an encrypted email to notify the microbiology attending and residents on service regarding a patient with potential brucellosis
Respectfully communicates concerns about the system	 Recognizes a communication breakdown has happened between second and third shift and respectfully brings the breakdown to the attention of the lab supervisor and attending microbiologist Upon quality assurance review of antibiotic susceptibility reports, notices the wrong antibiotics are being reported for <i>Burkholderia</i> species within the <i>B. cepacia</i> species complex and notifies the microbiology lab supervisor and attending Reports a corrected Gram stain result that led to an unnecessary surgery in the patient safety event reporting system
Level 3 Communicates while ensuring security of personal health information, with supervision	 Communicates opportunities for improvement in the LIS/EHR interface After reviewing new species updates in the MALDI-TOF database, realizes clinicians may not know that <i>Burkholderia vietnamensis</i> is in the <i>B. cepacia</i> species complex and works with the lab supervisor and information technology (IT) experts to update LIS reporting of the species name along with the complex in parentheses Knows when to appropriately escalate concerns locally, departmentally, or institutionally
Uses institutional structure to effectively communicate clear and constructive suggestions to improve the system	Upon review of fungal nomenclature changes, discusses the need to update LIS reporting with the lab manager and microbiology attending; upon consensus, works with the lab manager and IT to implement these changes

	 Upon determining that a yeast seen on a Gram stain from a blood culture is most consistent with <i>Cryptococcus</i> spp., seeks rapid confirmation from the attending microbiologist then immediately pages and communicates findings to the health care provider Uses the medical record to find a provider to contact for a critical value when the ordering provider cannot be reached
Level 4 Independently communicates while ensuring security of personal health information	 Talks directly to a colleague about breakdowns in communication in order to prevent recurrence Although highly involved and interested in a clinical case involving a famous sports athlete with positive joint cultures, restricts discussion of this case to physicians actively providing care Participates in a task force to update policy for sharing abnormal results Asks attending microbiologist to step out of the hallway into an office to discuss a patient history
Initiates conversations on difficult subjects with appropriate stakeholders to improve the system	 Upon review of the infection prevention policy, realizes the emerging pathogen Candida auris has not been added to the list and communicates a need to update the list with infection prevention Discusses the need for N95 fit testing with the residency program director and organizes a session during resident orientation
Level 5 Guides departmental or institutional communication around policies and procedures regarding the security of personal health information	 Participates in a task force established by the hospital QI committee to educate providers on appropriate communication methods to minimize breaches in PHI Participates in the institution's IRB office and updates the IRB template to optimize the appropriate use and security of PHI
Facilitates dialogue regarding systems issues among larger community stakeholders (e.g., institution, health care system, field)	 Develops an orientation module for incoming residents and fellows on appropriate use of PHI Identifies an unacceptable delay in transport time from outlying health care facilities and works with key stakeholders at both institutions to optimize specimen transport Works with system hospitals to standardize the microbiology critical value list
Assessment Models or Tools	 Debriefing session with attendings Direct observation of communications with providers Documentation of participation in meetings Multisource evaluation Portfolio review
Curriculum Mapping	

Notes or Resources	Haig KM, Sutton S, Whittington J. SBAR: a shared mental model for improving	
	communication between clinicians. <i>Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.</i> 2006;32(3):167-175.	
	https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250(06)32022-3/fulltext. 2020.	

In an effort to aid programs in the transition to using the new version of the Milestones, we have mapped the original Milestones 1.0 to the new Milestones 2.0. Below we have indicated where the subcompetencies are similar between versions. These are not necessarily exact matches but are areas that include some of the same elements. Note that not all subcompetencies map between versions. Inclusion or exclusion of any subcompetency does not change the educational value or impact on curriculum or assessment.

Milestones 1.0	Milestones 2.0
PC1: Consultation	PC1: Clinical Consultation
PC2: Testing (Methodology/Performance/Interpretation and	PC3: Test Performance and Organism Identification
Reporting) and Microorganism Identification	PC3: Test Interpretation and Reporting
	MK2: Test Methodology
MK1: Fundamental and Diagnostic Knowledge	MK1: Fundamental and Diagnostic Knowledge
MK2: Test Development and Validation/ Verification	MK2: Clinical Reasoning
MK3: Test Development, and Validation/ Verification	MK3: Test Development and Verification
SBP1: Regulatory	SBP4: Accreditation, Compliance, and Quality
SBP2: Health Care Teams	SBP2: Systems Navigation for Patient-Centered Care SBP6:
	Infection Prevention, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Public
	Health
	ICS2: Interprofessional and Team communication
SBP3: Laboratory Management: Resource Utilization (Personnel	SBP3: Physician Role in Health Care System
and Finance)	SBP5: Utilization
PBLI1: Evidence-based Utilization	PBLI1: Evidence-Based Practice and Scholarship
	SBP5: Utilization
PBLI2: Process Improvement and Patient Safety	SBP1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (QI)
PROF1: Receiving and Providing Feedback	PBLI2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal
	Growth
PROF2: Accountability, Honesty, and Integrity	PROF1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles PROF2:
	Accountability & Conscientiousness
	PROF3: Self-Awareness & Help Seeking
PROF3: Cultural Competency	SBP2: Systems Navigation for Patient-Centered Care
	ICS1: Patient and Family Centered Communication
ICS1: Communication with Health Care Providers, Families, and	ICS1: Patient and Family Centered Communication
Patients (as applicable)	ICS2: Interprofessional and Team Communication
ICS2: Personnel Management and Conflict Resolution	ICS2: Interprofessional and Team Communication
	ICS3: Communication within Health Care Systems

Available Milestones Resources

Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook, updated 2020 -

https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/ACGMEClinicalCompetencyCommitteeGuidebook.pdf?ver=2020-04-16-121941-380

Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook Executive Summaries, New 2020 - https://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Milestones/Resources - Guidebooks - Clinical Competency Committee Guidebook Executive Summaries

Milestones Guidebook, updated 2020 - https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/MilestonesGuidebook.pdf?ver=2020-06-11-100958-330

Milestones Guidebook for Residents and Fellows, updated 2020 -

https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/MilestonesGuidebookforResidentsFellows.pdf?ver=2020-05-08-150234-750

Milestones for Residents and Fellows PowerPoint, new 2020 - https://www.acgme.org/Residents-and-Fellows/The-ACGME-for-Residents-and-Fellows

Milestones for Residents and Fellows Flyer, new 2020 https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/ResidentFlyer.pdf

Implementation Guidebook, new 2020 - https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/Milestones%20Implementation%202020.pdf?ver=2020-05-20-152402-013

Assessment Guidebook, new 2020 -

https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/Guidebooks/AssessmentGuidebook.pdf?ver=2020-11-18-155141-527

Milestones National Report, updated each Fall -

https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/2019MilestonesNationalReportFinal.pdf?ver=2019-09-30-110837-587 (2019)

Milestones Bibliography, updated twice each year -

https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Milestones/MilestonesBibliography.pdf?ver=2020-08-19-153536-447

Developing Faculty Competencies in Assessment courses - https://www.acgme.org/Meetings-and-Educational-Activities/Other-Educational-Activities/Courses-and-Workshops/Developing-Faculty-Competencies-in-Assessment

Assessment Tool: Direct Observation of Clinical Care (DOCC) - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/assessment

Assessment Tool: Teamwork Effectiveness Assessment Module (TEAM) - https://dl.acgme.org/pages/assessment

Learn at ACGME has several courses on Assessment and Milestones - https://dl.acgme.org/