



Understanding the EPA section of Family Medicine Resident immersion In Training Evaluation Reports (ITERS)

The inclusion of a section on EPA supervision levels section in your immersion ITERS ((Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Adult Emergency Medicine, FM Urban, Elective/Selective >= 2 weeks/8 shifts, CCU, Internal Medicine, Palliative Care, Pediatrics, OBs Low Risk, Elderly, Hospitalist and Rural FM) has caused some confusion for some residents and some preceptors completing these ITERS.

This document is intended to provide clarity as to how the EPA section is used in your assessment.

1. Why is an EPA section needed?

EPAs are units of professional practice, defined as tasks or responsibilities that trainees are entrusted to perform without direct supervision. Selected EPAs have been added to rotation ITERS as a means of gathering **additional**, voluntary, assessment data on each Resident.

2. Is it a requirement for immersion Preceptors to fill out the EPA section?

Filling out this section is **optional** and **encouraged if** the preceptor understands the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected for the EPAs and the contexts/environments in which the Family Physician is expected to apply these EPAs.

Their assessment of EPAs relevant to their domain does provide us helpful and credible information in assessing our residents. **Preceptors are not being asked to make the final decision on this for completion of training, just the level they and their colleagues feel applies to the Resident at that particular point in time.**

3. What instruction have immersion Preceptors received?

We have communicated the above information with them in addition to the following:

“HOW DO I BEST FILL OUT EPA SECTION ON ITER?”

The level of responsibility and supervision delegated to Family Medicine Residents must take into account their level of training and their level of entrustability and competence relevant to that of a Family Medicine trainee (i.e. Please do not compare Family Medicine Resident’s level of entrustability of EPA to that of Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow’s).”

4. What happens if my ITER indicates a supervision level below 4 for any EPA?

Do not panic. Please be reassured that your Division/Site Director will review the ITER further and use the delegated EPA as a guide and any other supporting assessment data to make the final decision to sign off on the EPA. Remember your immersion preceptors are not being asked to make the final decision on the EPAs for completion of training, just the level they and their colleagues feel applies to you at that point in time.

5. Future directions?

Work is currently underway to redefine our EPAs more clearly in alignment with Key Features. This will likely result in some updating of our rotation ITERs.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact DFM Assessment Director Dr. Jacqueline Hui at Jacqueline.hui@ahs.ca