

Smith Sean (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-9936-8750)
Vargo Mary (Orcid ID: 0000-0002-6286-6876)

Specialized Curriculum for Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Residency Training and Beyond

Eric Wisotzky, MD

Medstar Health/Georgetown-National Rehabilitation Hospital

Eric.M.Wisotzky@medstar.net

Sean Smith, MD

University of Michigan

srsz@med.umich.edu

Lisa Ruppert, MD

Sillerman Center for Rehabilitation

rupperl1@mskcc.org

R. Samuel Mayer, MD, MEHP

Johns Hopkins Hospital

rmayer2@jhmi.edu

Samman Shahpar, MD

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

sshahpar@sralab.org

Brian McMichael, MD

Ohio State University

brian.mcmichael@osumc.edu

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as doi: [10.1002/pmjr.12902](https://doi.org/10.1002/pmjr.12902)

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Megan Clark, MD
University of Kansas Medical Center
Meca8f@gmail.com

Megan Brunner
AAPM&R staff
mbrunner@aapmr.org

Brian Thompson
AAPM&R staff
bthompson@aapmr.org

Mary Vargo, MD
Case Western Reserve University (MetroHealth)
mvargo@metrohealth.org

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Introduction

This curriculum was prepared by the American Academy for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) to provide general guidelines for training and written primarily for individuals involved in teaching residents and those in fellowship. The secondary audience for this curriculum is for those that are out in practice and would like to benchmark their current knowledge, skills, and attitudes in specific content domain. This curriculum was developed as an overview of competencies currently favored for the performance and training of PM&R and to serve as a guide to published references and educational

resources available to the psychiatrists. This curriculum is meant to augment rather than supplants the role program and fellowship directors and faculty play in the training of psychiatrists. By providing information about training benchmarks, AAPM&R hopes to improve the teaching and performance of psychiatrists.

Background

Through the PM&R BOLD Visioning process, several critical Graduate Medical Education (GME) issues have been identified that must be addressed to move this specialty forward to thrive in the future of healthcare. One of the main priorities for the Academy is to develop a process to re-align the content of GME training by setting standards for training that will advance the knowledge and skills of psychiatrists to meet the needs of new the practice models coming out of PM&R BOLD and the future of psychiatry in general. The goal of this curriculum is to outline the specific knowledge, skills, and attitude that are needed to help psychiatrists prepare to embrace, lead, and practice in the future practice environment of PM&R.

Definition of terms

The Academy is defining specialized curriculum and training guidelines as outlined below:

- Specialized Curriculum: A document that outlines what one should be able to do, which includes:
 - Competencies
 - KSAs (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)
 - Knowledge: Condition of being aware of something
 - Skills: Ability to perform a task or activity

- Attitudes: Feelings, emotions, beliefs, or value about something (influence people's choice of actions)
- Identified whether each KSA is core or specialized. Since each competency can have varying levels of difficulty, they are rated as Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced within Core and Specialized.
 - Core: Every physiatrist should know it at the completion of residency training.
 - Specialized: Only those that specialize in this area would be expected to know it.

Objectives

Upon completion of training in PM&R, trainees should be prepared to appropriately recommend procedures as indicated by the findings of consultative evaluation, with explicit understanding of accepted specific indications, contraindications, and diagnostic/therapeutic alternatives; perform procedures and examinations safely, completely, and expeditiously, and clinical assessment and patient monitoring; identify risk factors for each procedure, understand how to minimize each, and recognize and appropriately manage complications when they occur; acknowledge the limitations of PM&R procedures and personal skills and know when to request help; and understand the principles of quality measurement and improvement.

Supporting a Specialized Curriculum

Competence in knowledge, skills, and attitudes requires the foundation of didactic and hands-on learning that occurs within the comprehensive training of a PM&R specialist.

While the specialized curriculum may inform recommendations to the ACGME regarding program requirements, it should not be limited by this consideration; rather, it should focus on “what should be”

in order to achieve the goals of physiatrists and the specialty. The Academy's goal is to approach the development of specialized curricula from an aspirational and educational perspective – not regulation.

While there is core knowledge that all physiatrists need to have in order to be a general physiatrist, many physiatrists go on to become specialists in a specific content domain, i.e., MSK, brain injury, cancer rehabilitation, etc. For this reason, specialized curricula are needed to outline what specialized physiatrists need to know in each domain.

Structure

The following Specialized Curriculum for Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Training and Beyond was written by the American Academy for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation's Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine Curriculum Workgroup.

The curriculum is organized into six content areas:

- Global Impairment/Symptom Specific
- Cancer-Diagnosis Specific
- Procedures
- Areas of Practice
- Wellness/Survivorship
- General Information

Within each content domain, a series of competencies has been identified. Each competency is tagged as a) Knowledge, Skill and/or Attitude (KSA) type of competency, b) Core or Specialized level, and c)

within Core or Specialized levels, whether the particular competency represents a basic, intermediate or advanced KSA.

This Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine curriculum outlines the longitudinal expectation of what PM&R residents (core level) and those in fellowship training (specialized level) should generally know upon graduating. Program Directors should use this curriculum as a tool to help augment their current training program and to identify any gaps they may currently have in their programs. If any gaps are identified, the program director should implement lectures, conferences, journal clubs, and workshops, as well as clinical experiences as feasible, to fill these gaps. Educational resources for Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine will vary amongst training programs, and the aim of this curriculum tool is to help elevate the level of training amongst all programs.

After completing residency and fellowship training, physiatrists must continue their professional development over the course of their careers. They do this by learning from their practice and by participating in educational activities, which includes completing formal continuing medical education. It is essential for physiatrists to remain competent in their area of practice in order to provide the best quality of health care to their patients and communities. Experienced physiatrists can use this specialized curriculum to benchmark their current knowledge, skills and attitudes, with the goal to self-identify any gaps or areas of focus for future growth.

As the field of Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine continues to grow, it is important to ensure that physiatrists are provided with the tools needed to be successful. This specialized curriculum outlines the current competencies that are essential to ensure residents, those in fellowship training, and practicing physiatrists have the foundation required to be successful. Since the field continues to evolve, this

curriculum is meant to be a living document and will be updated accordingly. The goal is to provide a framework for the field of PM&R to ensure psychiatrists receive the training necessary to provide the best patient care.

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Rehabilitation Residency Training and Beyond**

Eric Wisotzky, MD
Medstar Health/Georgetown-National Rehabilitation Hospital
Eric.M.Wisotzky@medstar.net

Sean Smith, MD
University of Michigan
srsz@med.umich.edu

Lisa Ruppert, MD
Sillerman Center for Rehabilitation
rupper1@mskcc.org

R. Samuel Mayer, MD, MEHP
Johns Hopkins Hospital
rmayer2@jhmi.edu

Samman Shahpar, MD
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
sshahpar@sralab.org

Brian McMichael, MD
Ohio State University
brian.mcmichael@osumc.edu

Megan Clark, MD
University of Kansas Medical Center
Meca8f@gmail.com

Megan Brunner
AAPM&R staff
mbrunner@aapmr.org

Brian Thompson
AAPM&R staff
bthompson@aapmr.org

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