## An Anesthesiology Clerkship for General Medical Education

Tammy Y. Euliano, MD University of Florida College of Medicine

Learner Audience: (context/setting) 4th year medical students

**Background:** Compulsory anesthesiology exposure during UGME is uncommon in the US. According to the AAMC Curriculum Directory<sup>1</sup>, only 27 of 126 medical schools required an anesthesiology clerkship last year. Reasons to sponsor a clerkship include recruitment into the specialty and education of all physicians. While the former proves relatively ineffective, anesthesiologists have much to contribute to general medical education.

**Needs Assessment:** The "general medical education" focus at UF led to substantial evolution of our required anesthesiology clerkship over the last several years, culminating in a 4<sup>th</sup> year 2-week clerkship entitled, "Life Support Skills & Perioperative Medicine." In 2005-06 student comments regarding relevance for their chosen careers prompted development of a novel curriculum for students not pursuing anesthesiology, including personalized learning objectives (PLO) and formative on-line quizzes.

Hypothesis: We hypothesized an improved course, as reflected by student comments and course evaluations.

**Curriculum Design:** We developed a list of topics of broad interest that anesthesiologists teach well, but which are not welladdressed elsewhere. We then assigned values to each topic for each field of medicine (Table 1). Students completed a precourse survey rating each topic for perceived importance and current level of understanding. Software generated a personalized letter with learning objectives and reading assignments based on the greater of their perception or Table 1. At the end of the clerkship students rated the PLO on a 5-point Likert scale (poor-to-excellent)

**Outcome:** Data analysis was deemed exempt by the IRB. Pre-course surveys were completed by 95/103 students (92%), representing all non-anesthesiology fields of study. Students rated the PLO 3.9 with 76% very good or excellent. There were positive comments, e.g. "...great job of tailoring the clerkship to meet our future careers; and I really appreciated [you] taking a vested interest in my goals." However the overall clerkship evaluation remained unchanged at 4.1. Altering the final exam to match the PLO might increase their perceived value.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>http://www.aamc.org/meded/curric/start.htm</u> accessed October 8, 2008

Table 1. Assigned Topic Relevance based on Career Choice

	Preop		Vascular Access &	Basics of	Basics of	Basics	Acute Decom-	Acute	Chronic	Non-		CV/		
	Prep- aration	Airway Eval	Fluid Mgmt	Conscious Sedation	Reg Anes	of Gen Anes	pensatio n mgmt	pain mgmt	pain mgmt	invasive monitors	Invasive monitors	pulm phys	ABG analysis	Mech vent
Dermatology	3	3	2	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Emergency Medicine	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Family Practice	4	4	3	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
General Surgery	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Internal Medicine	4	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Neurology	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
Neurosurgery	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Nuclear Medicine	3	3	2	4	2	2	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	2
Obstetrics-Gynecology	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Ophthalmology	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2
Orthopedic Surgery	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Otolaryngology	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Pathology	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pediatrics	4	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	3
Plastic Surgery	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	4	4	3
PM&R	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	3	2
Psychiatry	2	3	2	3	2	2	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	2
Radiation Oncology	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	2
Radiology	3	3	3	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2
Urology	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Other	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Not sure	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3