Evidence-Based Medicine

Description & Goals:
The goal of the EBM course is to provide the foundation required for fellows to apply scientific methodologies in the evaluation of medical literature and apply current literature and best practices to clinical practice. The textbook Evidence-Based Medicine (Straus et al.) will serve as a resource. Goals of this series will be achieved through a combination of didactic sessions and working sessions (during which fellows will practice the techniques covered in the didactic sessions).

Objectives: Through active participation and presentation, the participant will:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic tools required for the practice of evidence-based medicine, including the analysis specificity, sensitivity, positive and negative predictive value, odds ratios, and likelihood ratios.
2. Demonstrate the ability to search the literature and identify the best available evidence.
3. Demonstrate the ability to develop critically appraised topics (Strauss et al: Evidence Based Medicine and Haynes et al Clinical Epidemiology).
4. Discuss and use tools useful for practice improvement (sentinel events, plan-do-study-act cycles, process and outcome measures)
5. Understand the use and implementation of best practices in clinical medicine.

Mechanisms to Achieve Goals and Objectives:
The trainee will participate in an on-line course in conjunction with periodic interactive sessions.

Competencies:
The meeting will contribute to the development of competency in the following areas:
1. Patient care: the fellow will practice the skills needed to ask and answer clinically-relevant questions, interpret and assess the validity of available evidence and apply knowledge to practice according to his/her assessment of the strength of available evidence.
2. Medical knowledge: the trainee will understand basic principles of evidence-based medicine, including the statistical analysis of evidence and data.

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