

**IV. Educational Program**  
**A. Curriculum components**  
**5. ACGME Competencies**  
**a. Patient Care**

**Common Program Requirement:**

5. *ACGME Competencies*  
*The program must integrate the following ACGME competencies into the curriculum:*
- a. *Patient Care*  
*Residents must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Residents:*  
*[As further specified by the Review Committee]*

**Explanation:**

While each specialty has specific requirements for patient care, some principles are common. Early in their education, residents should demonstrate patient care skills relevant to that specialty for patients with common diagnoses and for uncomplicated procedures. As residents progress in educational level, they should be able to demonstrate patient care skills with non-routine, complicated patients and under increasingly difficult circumstances, while demonstrating compassionate, appropriate and effective care. Likewise, they should demonstrate proficiency in performing increasingly complex procedures and handling unexpected complications, while demonstrating compassion and sensitivity to patient needs and concerns.

The types of patient care experiences residents/fellows must have are included in the specialty-specific program requirements. Requirements may indicate numerical requirements, settings in which experiences should occur, and indications for graduated responsibility. Evaluation methods for technical proficiency in patient care are essential and may include direct observation. Methods that assess patient care skills from the patient perspective are also needed to provide information on intangible elements of care such as compassion and sensitivity (components of professionalism). Methods such as patient surveys and multi-source evaluations can provide such insight. (See CPR V. Evaluation.)

Consult the specialty-specific program requirements for more information on patient care requirements, including curricular components and evaluation methods.