# Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Milestones

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education



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# Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Milestones

The Milestones are designed only for use in evaluation of fellows in the context of their participation in ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship programs. The Milestones provide a framework for the assessment of the development of the fellow in key dimensions of the elements of physician competence in a specialty or subspecialty. They neither represent the entirety of the dimensions of the six domains of physician competency, nor are they designed to be relevant in any other context.

# Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Milestones Work Group

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American Board of Dermatology

**Review Committee for Dermatology** 

## **Understanding Milestone Levels and Reporting**

This document presents the Milestones, which programs use in a semi-annual review of fellow performance, and then report to the ACGME. Milestones are knowledge, skills, attitudes, and other attributes for each of the ACGME Competencies organized in a developmental framework. The narrative descriptions are targets for resident/fellow performance throughout their educational program.

Milestones are arranged into levels. Tracking from Level 1 to Level 5 is synonymous with moving from novice to expert fellow in the specialty or subspecialty. For each reporting period, the Clinical Competency Committee will review the completed evaluations to select the milestone levels that best describe each learner's current performance, abilities, and attributes for each subcompetency.

These levels *do not* correspond with post-graduate year of education. Depending on previous experience, a junior fellow may achieve higher levels early in his/her educational program just as a senior fellow may be at a lower level later in his/her educational program. There is no predetermined timing for a resident to attain any particular level. Fellows may also regress in achievement of their milestones. This may happen for many reasons, such as over scoring in a previous review, a disjointed experience in a particular procedure, or a significant act by the fellow.

Selection of a level implies the fellow substantially demonstrates the milestones in that level, as well as those in lower levels (see the diagram on page vi).

### **Additional Notes**

Level 4 is designed as a graduation *goal* but *does not* represent a graduation *requirement*. Making decisions about readiness for graduation and unsupervised practice is the purview of the program director. Furthermore, Milestones 2.0 include revisions and changes that preclude using Milestones as a sole assessment in high-stakes decisions (i.e., determination of eligibility for certification or credentialing). Level 5 is designed to represent an expert fellow whose achievements in a subcompetency are greater than the expectation. Milestones are primarily designed for formative, developmental purposes to support continuous quality improvement for individual learners, education programs, and the specialty. The ACGME and its partners will continue to evaluate and perform research on the Milestones to assess their impact and value.

Some milestone descriptions include statements about performing independently. These activities must occur in conformity to ACGME supervision guidelines as described in the Program Requirements, as well as to institutional and program policies. For example, a fellow who performs a procedure independently must, at a minimum, be supervised through oversight.

A Supplemental Guide is also available to provide the intent of each subcompetency, examples for each level, assessment methods or tools, and other available resources. The Supplemental Guide, like examples contained within the Milestones, is designed only to assist the program director and Clinical Competency Committee and is not meant to demonstrate any required element or outcome.

Supplemental Guides and other resources are available on the Milestones page of each specialty section of the ACGME website. On <a href="https://www.acgme.org">www.acgme.org</a>, choose the applicable specialty under the "Specialties" menu, then select the "Milestones" link in the lower navigation bar.

The diagram below presents an example set of milestones for one subcompetency in the same format as the ACGME Report Worksheet. For each reporting period, a fellow's performance on the milestones for each subcompetency will be indicated by selecting the level of milestones that best describes that fellow's performance in relation to those milestones.

Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement				
Systems-Based Practice	e 1: Patient Safety and Qual	ity improvement		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of common patient safety events	Identifies system factors that lead to patient safety events	Participates in analysis of patient safety events (simulated or actual)	Conducts analysis of patient safety events and offers error prevention strategies (simulated or actual)	Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems (simulated or actual)	Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and families (simulated or actual)	Discloses patient safety events to patients and families (simulated or actual)	Role models or mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events
Demonstrates knowledge of basic quality improvement methodologies and metrics	Describes quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or departmental level	Participates in quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or departmental level	Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project	Creates, implements, and assesses quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or community level
Comments:			Not Yet C	ompleted Level 1
Selecting a response box in the middle of a level implies that			a response box on the evels indicates that m	
levels have beer	at level and in lower n substantially	demonstra	evels have been substated as well as <b>some</b>	
demonstrated.		milestone	s in the higher level(s)	).

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Patient Care 1: Mohs Surgery					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Identifies appropriate use criteria for selecting cases	Evaluates patients according to appropriate use criteria	Considers alternative treatments	Counsels patients and their families on the breadth of treatment options		
Identifies steps and instrumentation used in Mohs surgery	Performs first and subsequent layers of Mohs surgery of low complexity	Performs first and subsequent layers of Mohs surgery of moderate complexity	Performs first and subsequent layers of Mohs surgery of high complexity	Performs Mohs surgery for extremely complex cases or special sites	
Draws a map for the first layer of Mohs surgery	Maintains orientation of tissue on a two-dimensional surface for low-complexity specimens	Maintains orientation of tissue on three-dimensional surface for moderate-complexity specimens	Consistently maintains orientation of tissue for high-complexity specimens		
Comments:					
Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable					

Patient Care 2: Reconstruction				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies categories of reconstruction options	Selects reconstruction options	Selects and designs low- complexity reconstruction options	Selects and designs high-complexity reconstruction options	Designs a novel reconstruction
Performs linear closures	Performs low-complexity reconstruction	Performs high-complexity reconstruction	Performs high- complexity, multi-staged reconstruction	Efficiently performs high- complexity, multi-staged reconstruction
Manages complications from linear closures	Manages acute complications from low-complexity reconstruction	Manages acute complications from high-complexity reconstruction and long-term complications with non-surgical treatments	Assists with management of long-term complications with surgical treatments	Manages long-term complications with surgical treatments
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1  Not Yet Assessable				

Patient Care 3: Mohs Histopathology					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Discusses en face sectioning and the process for preparing tissue for frozen section	Assesses a Mohs slide competently for the presence/absence of tumor	Identifies when a recut is needed	Troubleshoots slides and suggests technical solutions	Prepares frozen section slides	
Identifies straightforward tumors on frozen section	Identifies artifacts on frozen section	Identifies normal variants, less common tumors, and high-risk features on frozen section	Identifies unexpected findings, and rare and unusual tumors on frozen section	Interprets frozen immunohistochemistry stains	
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1  Not Yet Assessable					

Patient Care 4: Diagnosis and Management				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Diagnoses and manages common malignant lesions and discusses current staging systems  Discusses risks and benefits of non-surgical management options	Orders additional diagnostic testing to narrow the differential diagnosis or for staging ldentifies patients who would benefit from nonsurgical management	Diagnoses and manages complex malignant lesions and stages tumor  Selects and manages alternative treatment and/or adjuvant therapy or work-up in addition to or in place of surgery	Diagnoses and manages rare and unusual malignant lesions  Coordinates multidisciplinary care for non-surgical management	Prescribes novel non- surgical treatment options
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable				

Medical Knowledge 1: Micrographic Surgery					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates knowledge of surgically relevant normal anatomy and physiology, and principles of wound healing	Demonstrates knowledge of surgically relevant anatomic variations and peri-operative considerations	With assistance, identifies surgically relevant anatomic variations and peri-operative considerations, and alters patient management accordingly	Independently identifies surgically relevant anatomic considerations and peri-operative considerations, and alters patient management accordingly	Significantly contributes to the surgical curriculum for a dermatology residency program or micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology fellowship	
Comments:	Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1 Not Yet Assessable				

Medical Knowledge 2: Cutaneous Oncology					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates basic knowledge of cutaneous oncology	Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of cutaneous oncology and clinical implications	With assistance, applies knowledge of common cutaneous oncology into medical decision making	Independently incorporates knowledge of complex cutaneous oncology into medical decision making	Recommends novel investigations based on knowledge of cutaneous oncology and clinical trials	
Comments:			Not Yet C Not Yet A	ompleted Level 1	

Systems-Based Practice 1: Patient Safety and Quality Improvement					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates knowledge of common safety events	Identifies system factors that lead to safety events	Participates in analysis of safety events (simulated or actual)	Conducts analysis of safety events and offers error prevention strategies (simulated or actual)	Actively engages teams and processes to modify systems to prevent safety events	
Demonstrates knowledge of how to report patient safety events	Reports patient safety events through institutional reporting systems	Participates in disclosure of patient safety events to patients and their families (simulated or actual)	Discloses patient safety events to patients and their families (simulated or actual)	Mentors others in the disclosure of patient safety events	
Demonstrates knowledge of basic quality improvement methodologies and metrics	Describes local quality improvement initiatives	Participates in local quality improvement initiatives	Demonstrates the skills required to identify, develop, implement, and analyze a quality improvement project	Creates, implements, and assesses quality improvement initiatives at the institutional or community level	
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge of care coordination	Coordinates care of patients in routine clinical situations, effectively using the roles of the interprofessional team members	Coordinates care of patients in complex clinical situations, effectively using the roles of the interprofessional team members	Leads effective coordination of patient- centered care among different disciplines and specialties	Analyzes the process of care coordination and leads in the design and implementation of improvements
Identifies key elements for safe and effective transitions of care and hand-offs	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in routine clinical situations	Performs safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs in complex clinical situations	Advocates for safe and effective transitions of care/hand-offs within and across health care delivery systems, including outpatient settings	Improves quality of transitions of care within and across health care delivery systems to optimize patient outcomes
Demonstrates knowledge of population and community health needs and disparities	Identifies specific population and community health needs and inequities for the local population	Uses local resources effectively to meet the needs of a patient population and community	Participates in changing and adapting practice to provide for the needs of specific populations	Leads innovations and advocates for populations and communities with health care inequities

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies key components of the complex health care system	Describes how components of a complex health care system are interrelated, and how this impacts patient care	Discusses how individual practice affects the broader system	Manages various components of the complex health care system to provide efficient and effective patient care	Advocates for or leads systems change that enhances high-value, efficient, and effective patient care
Describes basic health payment systems and practice models	Delivers care with consideration of each patient's payment models	Engages with patients in shared decision making, informed by each patient's payment models	Advocates for patient care needs with consideration of the limitations of each patient's payment models	Participates in health policy advocacy activities
Identifies basic practice management knowledge domains for effective transition to practice	Describes core administrative knowledge needed for transition to practice	Demonstrates use of information technology required for medical practice	Analyzes individual practice patterns and professional requirements in preparation for practice	Educates others to prepare them for transition to practice

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Demonstrates knowledge that laboratories must be accredited	Demonstrates knowledge of the components of laboratory accreditation and regulatory compliance, either through training or experience	Identifies the differences between accreditation and regulatory compliance; discusses the process for achieving accreditation and maintaining regulatory compliance	Participates in an internal or external laboratory inspection (actual or simulated)	Independently formulates a response for proficiency testing failures
Discusses the need for quality control and proficiency testing	Interprets quality data, charts, and trends, including proficiency testing results, with supervision	Discusses implications of proficiency testing failures	Performs analysis and review of proficiency testing failures and recommends a course of action, with oversight	

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 1: Evidence-Based and Informed Practice					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Demonstrates how to access and use available evidence, and incorporate patient preferences and values in order to take care of a routine patient	Articulates clinical questions and elicits patient preferences and values to guide evidence-based care	Locates and applies the best available evidence, integrated with patient preference, to the care of complex patients	Critically appraises and applies evidence, even in the face of uncertainty and conflicting evidence, to guide care tailored to the individual patient	Coaches others to critically appraise and apply evidence for complex patients, and/or participates in the development of guidelines	
Comments:	Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement 2: Reflective Practice and Commitment to Personal Growth					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Accepts responsibility for personal and professional development by establishing goals	Demonstrates openness to performance data (feedback and other input) to inform goals	Seeks performance data episodically, with adaptability and humility	Intentionally and consistently seeks performance data, with adaptability and humility	Role models consistently seeking performance data with adaptability and humility	
Identifies the factors that contribute to gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Analyzes and reflects on the factors that contribute to gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Analyzes, reflects on, and institutes behavioral change(s) to narrow the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Challenges own assumptions and considers alternatives in narrowing the gap(s) between expectations and actual performance	Coaches others on reflective practice	
Actively seeks opportunities to improve	Designs and implements a learning plan with prompting	Independently creates and implements a learning plan	Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and, when necessary, improves it	Facilitates the design and implementing learning plans for others	
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1					

Professionalism 1: Professional Behavior and Ethical Principles				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Identifies and describes potential triggers for professionalism lapses	Demonstrates insight into professional behavior in routine situations	Demonstrates professional behavior in complex or stressful situations	Recognizes situations that may trigger professionalism lapses and intervenes to prevent lapses in oneself and others	Coaches others when their behavior fails to meet professional expectations
Describes when and how to appropriately report professionalism lapses, including strategies for addressing common barriers	Takes responsibility for one's own professionalism lapses	Recognizes the need to seek help in managing and resolving complex ethical situations	Recognizes and uses appropriate resources for managing and resolving ethical dilemmas	Identifies and seeks to address system-level factors that induce or exacerbate ethical problems or impede their resolution
Demonstrates knowledge of medical ethical principles	Analyzes straightforward situations using ethical principles	Analyzes complex situations using ethical principles		Serves as resource for colleagues who face ethical dilemmas
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Professionalism 2: Accountability/Conscientiousness				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Responds promptly to requests or reminders to complete tasks	Performs routine tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail	Performs tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner with appropriate attention to detail in complex or stressful situations	Mitigates situations that may impact others' ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Takes ownership of system outcomes and suggests revisions to the systems to enhance
Proactively ensures that the needs of patients are met	Takes responsibility for failure to complete tasks and responsibilities	Recognizes situations that may impact one's own ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner	Implements strategies to enhance accountability of team members involved in patient care	accountability
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1				

Professionalism 3: Self-Awareness and Help-Seeking				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes status of personal and professional well-being, with assistance	Independently recognizes status of personal and professional well-being	Proposes a plan to optimize personal and professional well-being	Independently develops and implements a plan to optimize personal and professional well- being	Coaches others to optimize personal and professional well-being
Recognizes limits in one's own knowledge/ skills, with assistance	Independently recognizes limits in own knowledge/skills and seeks help when appropriate	Proposes a plan to remediate or improve limits in one's own knowledge/skills	Independently develops and implements a plan to remediate or improve limits in one's own knowledge/skills	
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1				

This subcompetency is not intended to evaluate a fellow's well-being, but to ensure each fellow has the fundamental knowledge of factors that impact wellbeing, the mechanisms by which those factors impact well-being, and available resources and tools to improve well-being.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Uses language and non- verbal behavior to demonstrate respect and establish rapport with patients of different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in straightforward encounters using active listening and clear language	Establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient encounters, with guidance	Independently establishes a therapeutic relationship in challenging patient encounters	Mentors others in situational awareness and critical self-reflection to consistently develop positive therapeutic relationships
Identifies common barriers (e.g., language, disability/hearing) to effective communication	Identifies complex barriers (e.g., health literacy, cultural differences) to effective communication	When prompted, reflects on conscious and unconscious biases while attempting to minimize communication barriers	Independently recognizes conscious and unconscious biases while attempting to proactively minimize communication barriers	
Identifies elements of shared decision making	Identifies the importance of engaging in shared decision making	Uses shared decision making to make a personalized care plan, with guidance	Independently uses shared decision making to make a personalized care plan	Independently uses shared decision making to make a personalized care plan when there is a high degree of uncertainty

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Recognizes when a consultation is needed	Clearly communicates key reasons for a requested consultation	Confirms comprehension of consultant recommendations	Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team to	Role models flexible communication strategies that demonstrate one values input from all
Respectfully receives a consultation request	Clearly and concisely responds to a consultation request	Checks understanding of recommendations when providing consultation	optimize patient care	health care team members, resolving conflict when needed
Uses language that demonstrates that one values all members of the health care team	Solicits feedback on performance as a member of the health care team	Communicates concerns and provides feedback to peers and learners	Communicates feedback and constructive criticism to superiors	Facilitates regular health care team-based feedback in complex situations

Interpersonal and Communication Skills 3: Communication within Health Care Systems				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Accurately records information in the electronic health record (EHR) in a timely manner	Demonstrates organized diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning through notes in the EHR	Concisely reports diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning in the EHR	Communicates clearly, concisely, and in an organized written form, including anticipatory guidance	Coaches others to improve written communication
Safeguards protected health information by using appropriate communication channels	Uses documentation tools and shortcuts (e.g., copy/paste) accurately and appropriately, per institutional policy	Appropriately selects and uses direct (e.g., telephone, in-person) and indirect (e.g., progress notes, texts, and inbox messages) forms of communication based on context	Provides written or verbal communication (e.g., patient notes, email) that serves as an example for others to follow	Guides departmental or institutional communication around policies and procedures
Comments:  Not Yet Completed Level 1				