Advisory to physician assistant programs
Re: revision to national competency profile

The Committee on Conjoint Accreditation (CCA) has accepted a new competency profile from the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA) for use in the accreditation of physician assistant programs.

Accreditation surveys
The CAPA Can-Meds PA competency profile, dated September 2015 will be used for accreditation surveys effective January 1, 2017.

The September 2015 competency profile will replace the previous version dated September 2009.

The finalized version has been forwarded to programs by CAPA.

Criterion 1.3
Validation of critical criterion 1.3 – Cross-reference of curriculum to the competency profile
Programs scheduled for their regular survey visit in 2016 or 2017 may use either the 2009 or 2015 version of the profile, cross-referencing all competencies in the competency profile to their curriculum to as part of the evidence submitted with their program self-assessment report (see 2014 Requirements for accreditation handbook, critical criterion 1.3).

Criterion 1.5
Validation of critical criterion 1.5 – Attainment of competencies – Student records
During their scheduled accreditation visit, programs are expected to provide verifiable data confirming the students’ attainment of competencies in the CAPA competency profile. See the 2014 Requirements for accreditation handbook, critical criterion 1.5, for the type of evidence to be submitted.

It is possible, depending on the scheduled time of the visit, that the 2015 competency profile will be used to assess critical criterion 1.3, while the 2009 competency profile will be used to assess critical criterion 1.5.

Reporting requirement
As per discussions between the programs and CAPA, there are no reporting requirements specific to the implementation and use of the 2015 competency profile.

Communication with CMA Accreditation
Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about this change in the competency profile for physician assistants.