

ALS Redesign Expert Panel Meeting
March 28, 2022, 2p.m. ET



This month's topic: Performance Examination Template

How It Works

The topic for this month's meeting focused on the framework for the Performance Component of ALS Examination Redesign.

The scenario-based performance items and its model framework were introduced and presented to the panel by the National Registry's Examination Content Manager, Dr. Paul Rosenberger.

Dr. Rosenberger began the presentation by explaining that a clinical judgment domain will be added to the cognitive examination. As this new domain was presented, it was specified that this new domain will consist of scenario-based performance items.

The focus of the presentation was the structure of the scenario-based performance items and the theoretical framework for clinical judgment (a panel of educational program directors and EMS instructors have reviewed the initial template and provided important feedback on its structure). The scenarios presented were used for exercise purposes only to better demonstrate the scenario-based performance items with the model framework.

Presented to the panel was the general format of the template consisting of a posed scenario followed by several questions. As a candidate navigates through the scenario, more information may be given to measure how well a candidate can evaluate and incorporate the new information into their decision making. This template is based on the clinical judgment theoretical model as published in Prehospital Emergency Care.

Dr. Mihaiela Gugiu provided a definition of clinical judgment in EMS. "Clinical Reasoning is defined as a thought process a clinician uses to evaluate a problem. The conclusion of this thought process, or the choice made, is 'clinical decision-making.' Finally, the overall process encompassing both clinical reasoning and clinical decision-making is represented by the term "clinical judgment."

In closing of the presentation, the panel provided excellent feedback about the template and structure of the performance items. With the intention to begin including items on the cognitive examination later this year, the Registry will continue to work and communicate with the panel and EMS community as refinements and progress are made.

To support the educational community in the process, the Registry intends to provide templates and scoring rubrics in addition to meetings with EMS textbook publishers and educational support vendors to provide information about the ALS Redesign project. With these efforts, it is hoped that publishers and vendors can begin developing materials to support educational programs. Additional information will be shared using webinars, emails, partnership touchpoints, meetings, and other communication avenues to develop understanding of the new format and help programs prepare.

The National Registry values collaboration and communication with the EMS community, it is a priority to inform vendors, educators, and partners in EMS about the framework to ensure they have comfort, confidence, and familiarity with its usage.

Current State of Research

The National Registry is working and collaborating with organizations to develop materials to support the educational community to ensure that they are equipped with information needed to best support them.

The paper, "[A Proposed Theoretical Framework for Clinical Judgement in EMS](#)" authored by Mihaiela R. Gugiu, PhD, Kim Mckenna, PhD, MEd, BSN, NRP, Thomas E. Platt, EdD, and Ashish R. Panchal, MD, PhD., defines and explains the clinical judgment domain and how it works in EMS. This accepted version of this paper is available online. The final version of the paper will be available at a later determined date.

Discussion Question

How can the National Registry help and better prepare the EMS community and educators prepare for the addition of the Clinical Judgment domain?

The Consensus

The National Registry continues to value the partnership and collaboration with the panel. The panel provided informative and constructive feedback that indicated there is significant progress made but work that still needs to be done.

The panel collectively agreed that practical education and guidance will determine the success of not only adoption of the new format, but its meaningful progress. The panel also suggested the National Registry should collaborate with partners like NAEMSE, NAEMSO, NAEMSP and others to spread the message and to develop educational materials.

As more data is collected from the items, the panel will revisit and discuss the matter in the future.