Entrustable professional activities – a link between pre- and postgraduate education

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“Entrustable Professional Activities, (EPA’s)” are characterized as pieces of work in a given typical clinical context, which may be entrusted to a trainee for independent execution at a certain point of training.

An example could be the “management of general anesthesia for low-risk surgery in a patient without relevant co-morbidity” as a first-year EPA in anesthesia training.

EPA’s may be described as an evolution of competency-based medical education applying the concept of competencies to specific workplace contexts. By this, the expected level of supervision at a certain stage of training gets more practical meaning, taking a more holistic view of a trainee. Experience with this new concept is limited until now, therefore it remains to be determined whether present expectations will be fulfilled.

In this contribution, the concept of EPA’s will be related to models of expertise and of patient safety.