



# Entrustable professional activities in competency-based veterinary education

C.C.M.A. Duijn<sup>1</sup> | H.G.J. Bok<sup>1</sup> | (Th.J.) O. ten Cate<sup>2</sup> | M. Mandoki<sup>3</sup> | W.D.J. Kremer<sup>1</sup>  
For more information, please contact [c.c.m.a.duijn@uu.nl](mailto:c.c.m.a.duijn@uu.nl)

1 Utrecht University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht

2 University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht

3 Szent Istvan University, Budapest

## Background

There is an increased interest in competency-based veterinary education at the clinical workplace<sup>1, 3</sup>

EPAs can increase transparency in the workplace regarding students' abilities and competencies, and can help to ensure safe and high quality patient care<sup>2, 3</sup>

The aim of this study was to describe EPAs and explore their feasibility in veterinary clerkships

## Methods

### Procedure

Modified Delphi procedure, based on a draft version of EPAs

Validate a framework, among veterinary (educational) experts

An online questionnaire, judging the relevance of the several EPAs (on a five-point Likert scale)

### Participants

- 47 Veterinarians (response rate 57%)
- 15 Teachers
- 16 Veterinarians of the extramural clinics
- 16 Recently graduated veterinarians

## Analyses

Rating

1. Accepted
2. Adjusted
3. Declined

Accepted when at least 80 % of the panel members scored relevant or very relevant (4-5).

## Results

The Delphi procedure resulted in a list of 35 EPAs for assessing students competency development.



Figure 2: Find the EPA's for veterinary medicine "Managing a....."

## EPA: Respiration problem

### Description

- History taking, general impression and general examination
- Recognition of the respiration problem and evaluating the prognosis
- Respiration examination; respiratory movements, noise and cough, nasal cavities and thorax, lung percussion, larynx and trachea
- Problem definition and ddx
- Additional research
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Knowledge of the relevant pathophysiology, zoonosis, notifiable diseases and pharmacology (vaccinations and formulary)

### Competency domain

- Veterinary expertise
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Health and welfare
- Scholarship
- Personal development

### Qualified level

1. Present / observation, not implement
2. Implement under direct / physically present supervision
3. Implement under direct recallable supervision
4. Implement without supervision
5. Supervision of others



Figure 1: Example of the description of the EPA 'Managing a respiration problem'.

## Conclusion and discussion

The EPAs will be employed in the undergraduate training program, with the focus on the practicability to give insight in students' performance in the clinical workplace. Further research should focus on how EPAs could be implemented for enhancing competency development and making entrustment decisions.

## Take home message

EPAs could be used to bridge the gap between a competency based approach and daily clinical practice.

## References:

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