

Regional Medicine-Public Health Education Centers (RMPHEC)
POPULATION HEALTH COMPETENCIES FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS*

All graduates from medical school should demonstrate the following competencies to contribute to improving the health and health care for defined populations (e.g., their patient panels, local communities, states, nations, and global regions):

1. Assess the health status of populations using available data (e.g., public health surveillance data, vital statistics, registries, surveys, electronic health records and health plan claims data).
2. Discuss the role of socioeconomic, environmental, cultural, and other population-level determinants of health on the health status and health care of individuals and populations.
3. Integrate emerging information on individuals' biologic and genetic risk with population-level factors when deciding upon prevention and treatment options.
4. Appraise the quality of the evidence of peer reviewed medical and public health literature and its implications at patient- and population- levels.
5. Apply primary and secondary prevention strategies that improve the health of individuals and populations.
6. Identify community assets and resources to improve the health of individuals and populations.
7. Explain how community-engagement strategies may be used to improve the health of communities and to contribute to the reduction of health disparities.
8. Participate in population health improvement strategies (e.g., systems and policy advocacy, program or policy development, or other community-based interventions).
9. Discuss the functions of public health systems including those that require or benefit from the contribution of clinicians, such as public health surveillance, preparedness, and prevention of chronic conditions.
10. Describe the organization and financing of the U.S. health care system, and their effects on access, utilization, and quality of care for individuals and populations.
11. Discuss the ethical implications of health care resource allocation and emerging technologies on population health.
12. Identify quality improvement methods to improve medical care and population health.

*From: Maeshiro R, Johnson I, Koo D, Parboosingh J, Carney JK, Gesundheit N, Ho ET, Butler-Jones D, Donovan D, Finkelstein JA, Bennett NM, Shore B, McCurdy SA, Novick LE, Velarde LD, Dent MM, Banchoff A, Cohen L. Medical Education for a Healthier Population: Reflections on the Flexner Report From a Public Health Perspective. *Acad Med.* 2010; 85(2): p. 215.