

AQUIFER EDUCATOR CONNECTION PODCAST

Episode 7: Assessing Clinical Decision Making with Aquifer's Internal Medicine Exam

Guest: Valerie Lang, Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and Academic Director of Assessment of Clinical Decision Making, Aquifer.

Host: Lynne Robins, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Description: Dr. Valerie Lang was instrumental in the development and validation of the Aquifer Internal Medicine Clinical Decision Making Exam, which assesses learners' clinical reasoning and decision making and is free to subscribers of Aquifer's Internal Medicine course. In this podcast, Dr. Lang explains why the exam was developed and the benefits of integrating it into an overall assessment program to achieve a more comprehensive picture of students' clinical competence.

Valerie's Key Takeaways:

- The exam assesses individual students' ability to apply knowledge, not just recall facts.
 - Students are asked to make decisions about what to do next in the context of a carefully sampled selection of common clinical problems that map to the national Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine curriculum.
 - The exam was designed to supplement the National Board of Medical Examiners shelf exam and was intentionally made short enough (75 minutes) so that it could be administered on the same day if desired.
 - The exam is a key features assessment, which has been shown to correlate well with how learners will perform in practice.
- The exam is being used successfully for formative and summative purposes
- Programs considering whether to use the exam, should think about their overall program of assessment and what gaps you want to fill.
 - if you are having challenges evaluating student's clinical decision making process across a range of common conditions in Internal Medicine this exam could be of value

- The exam format is different enough that it is important to orient students to how it works and how they should approach studying for it.
 - Students report that the exam feels much more aligned with how they need to care for patients than other assessments they are exposed to.

Additional Resources:

- [Clinical Decision Making Exam presentation slides](#)
- [Clinical Decision Making Exam presentation recording](#)

(both from the Academic Directors in Internal Medicine/Clinical Directors in Internal Medicine annual meeting in April, 2021)

- [Clinical Decision Making Exam page on Aquifer.org](#)

Theme Music: “Little Idea” by scottholmesmusic.com