EPA GIM Nr. 7

1. Title	**Caring for patients in situations of vulnerability**
2. Description (Specifications and limitations)	Refers to the management of patients presenting one or more health-related vulnerability factors that put them at risk of unequal care (e.g. patients exposed to domestic violence, LGBTIQA+ population, forced migrant populations, sex workers, frequent emergency department users etc). They are characterised by a situation of global clinical vulnerability and unusual complexity. ***Setting:*** • Home, ambulatory, • Hospital, other institutions, nursing home ***Time frame:*** • from the first patient-related contact, until resolution, effective treatment, or referral. • A defined period of care within a longitudinal follow-up (i.e. one encounter). ***Includes the following tasks:*** • Identify a situation of global clinical vulnerability, unusual complexity and specific needs in patients • Adapt care accordingly ***Excludes:*** Managing legal and insurance issues (EPA 15); Documenting patient-related medical infomration (EPA 9)
3. Potential risks in case of failure	Inequity in the access to healthcare.
4. Most relevant Competency Domains (emphasis)	• Health advocate • Communicator • Collaborator
5. Knowledge, Skills, Attitude: key aspects	***Knowledge and skills:*** • Recognizes patients at risk of unequal care • Assesses barriers to access healthcare services (e.g. linguistic barriers, ethnicity, social, material or relational precarity, physical or cognitive/intellectual disabilities, addictions..) • Assesses patient knowledge, expectations, and needs in terms of treatment of symptoms, diseases and illnesses

	• Accommodates the clinical encounter to patient needs by taking into account patient health-literacy, cognitive/ functional disabilities or language and cultural differences (incl use of professional interpreters) • Explores the patient social environment • Adapts the management and care plan according to the patients and /or the relatives needs • Collaborates with other healthcare or social professionals (specialized nurses, social service, associations, ...) ***Attitude:*** • Appraises the increased risk for vulnerable people to have their interests unequally considered and have limited access to healthcare resources • Avoids prejudice (bias, stereotypes) • Integrates ethical principles, and legal aspects of critical care, including informed consent and capacity assessment • Fosters collaboration and team work between health professionals • Demonstrates an empathetic, open and receptive attitude towards colleagues in the health professions • Demonstrates professionalism: respect, proactive involvement, integrity, reliability, and collegiality, as well as cultural humility and cultural competence. • Demonstrates openness to feedback and opinion of others • Is aware of own limits and seeks help if needed
6. Information sources to assess progress	• Direct observation • Case presentation and case-based discussion • Evaluation of products (chart records etc) • Reflective Practice
7. Entrustment/ Supervision Level expected at end of training.	Distant supervision (Level 4)
8. Expiration date	NA

The EPA committee of the SIWF approved this EPA on 02.05.2025.

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