Re: Revised Psychiatry Structured Assessment of Clinical Encounter Report (STACER)

Dear Colleagues,

Over the last number of years COPE has been reviewing the psychiatry STACER. On April 9, 2011, a new STACER approach was approved by COPE and this was subsequently endorsed by the Royal College Specialty Committee in Psychiatry on April 10, 2011.

The major change is the process for STACER, with the new process aiming to embed the STACER as a required formative assessment tool within residency programs that then becomes part of the overall assessment of the resident, as opposed to the STACER being a summative assessment that is required in order to complete the resident’s FITER. The revised STACER process states that programs must assess the resident as many times as necessary to attest that the skills outlined in the STACER have been acquired by the end of training. The Specialty Committee understands that psychiatry programs will be using the STACER in the PGY4 and 5 years at present, but planning is currently underway to develop STACERS for use earlier in training and in specific subspecialty areas. The objective is to ensure competence and not to make the STACER a summative evaluation. The STACER is a tool to provide programs with the opportunity to assess residents at different levels of training and provide feedback.

A copy of the STACER should be given to the residents at the beginning of their training and again at least three days prior to an evaluation. Please see Procedure for the Conduct of the STACER (attached to the STACER) for additional details.

I have attached the revised version of the STACER. The STACER will be part of the accreditation standards for psychiatry programs, which will be assessed at the time of accreditation. There will be a tick box on the FITER to indicate that a STACER has been used in assessing the candidate.
The revised STACER will be available on the Royal College web site. You may begin using it at any time, having informed your residents.

Sincerely,

Paul Dagg, MD, FRCPC
Chair, Specialty Committee in Psychiatry

cc:  Karen Saperson, MD, FRCPC, Co-chair, Psychiatry Examination Board
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