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#### **Authors**

Wald, D  
Peet, A

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### 33 “Acting” Interns, Assessing When Graduating Medical Students Call for Help, a Simulated Capstone Experience

Wald D, Peet A/Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

**Background:** In recent years some medical schools have developed Capstone courses to help prepare medical students to enter residency training. These courses may also provide an opportunity to assess entrustable professional activities.

**Objectives:** We developed a Capstone experience to assess how often and why graduating medical students call for help when encountering medical emergencies. We hypothesized that student’s would call a senior resident (SR) for varying reasons.

**Methods:** A post-course survey was used to assess how often and why students call for help. We designed 2 simulation cases; acute pulmonary edema with severely elevated blood pressure (SEBP), COPD exacerbation leading to PEA arrest (COPD). A SR was available for phone consultation, they would respond to the bedside for the COPD case. This case also incorporated a nurse. Students worked in groups of 3.

**Results:** 46 groups attended the exercise; post-course surveys were completed by groups, not individual students. For the SEBP case, 29 groups (64%, n-45) called the SR. The most common reasons were; assistance with therapeutic management (79%, 23/29), we were in over our heads (38%, 11/29), assistance with diagnostic work-up (31%, 9/29). Seven groups (24%, n-29) felt they should have called sooner. Twenty-eight groups (97%, n-29) noted that the advice changed management. For the COPD case, 24 groups (55%, n-44) called the SR without prompting by the nurse, the nurse prompted 12 groups (27%) to call, for eight groups (18%), the nurse called the SR. The most common reasons were; assistance with therapeutic management (55%, n-44), we-re in over our heads (55%), need for the resident to come to the bedside (48%). Twenty-three groups (52%, n-44) called the SR before the patient went into PEA arrest. Thirty-one groups (71%, n-44) felt they should have called sooner.

**Conclusions:** When encountering simulated emergencies, graduating medical students will commonly call for help, often for assistance with therapeutic management.