

ACC releases 2016 lifelong learning competencies

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(HealthDay)—The American College of Cardiology (ACC) has released

a report outlining lifelong learning competencies for general cardiologists. The report was published online Feb. 19 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Eric S. Williams, M.D., of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, and colleagues on the writing committee initially adapted competency tables in the first Core Cardiovascular Training Statement (COCATS) published in 1995. These tables were then revised, reviewed, and expanded to cover the core competencies for the practice of general clinical cardiology.

The writing committee organized the learning competencies according to the six domains developed by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Board of Medical Specialties, and endorsed by the American Board of Internal Medicine. These competency domains include medical knowledge, patient care and procedural skill, systems-based practice, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, and professionalism. The report also includes leadership and administrative competencies. An important component of competency-based training and performance is an outcome-based evaluation system. Along with the COCATS 4 released in March 2015, the ACC documents outline the learning competencies expected of a cardiologist from training through a career in clinical practice.

"These lifelong learning competencies serve as the underpinning of all ACC education activities and are a mechanism for needs assessment and personalized or focused education for physicians," Williams said in a statement.

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