

The CanMEDS portfolio: A useful tool for documentation and evaluation of CanMEDS activities for residents – an example from diagnostic radiology

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We developed a comprehensive resident CanMEDS portfolio for ongoing documentation of resident participation and education in CanMEDS Roles for Diagnostic Radiology. The objective of this presentation is to illustrate the utility of this tool for Radiology and its adaptability to other specialties.

The portfolio is an electronic document, structured to highlight all CanMEDS Roles. Each resident is provided with a template at the beginning of residency, which lists sample activities for each Role. The resident updates the document on an ongoing basis and submits it as part of his or her annual evaluation. The portfolio is reviewed and discussed face to face with the resident, in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and any personal educational gaps. Following the initial construction, the document is easily updated and personalized with minimal effort.

The portfolio is multi-purpose. It is an educational tool that highlights the CanMEDS Roles and their integral part of resident education and personal and professional development. While it documents activities and achievements and increases awareness, it also promotes reflection of the importance of these Roles specific to Radiology and future practice. The added advantage for program directors and assistants is up-to-date documentation of resident activities, which serves as a highly useful tool, particularly for pre-survey questionnaire preparation. With the responsibility for updating and submission by the resident, this tool requires minimal effort to implement and maintain.

The resident CanMEDS portfolio is a high-impact tool for education, documentation and evaluation of specialty-specific CanMEDS Roles. This can be easily adapted and personalized for use in other specialties.