

# Changing Behavior via Direct Observation and Skillful Feedback

Peter J Katsufraakis, MD, MBA  
National Board of Medical Examiners

January 2012  
Doha, Qatar

# Acknowledgements

- Eric Holmboe, MD  
American Board of Internal Medicine
- Richard Hawkins, MD  
American Board of Medical Specialties
- Margaret Richmond  
Colleen Canavan  
Harold Venable  
National Board of Medical Examiners

# Objectives

- Identify different forms of training used to improve raters' effectiveness
- Describe desired characteristics of items used to rate behaviors in clinical training
- List steps to follow in providing feedback to learners

# Workshop Outline

- Professionalism
- Overview of types of Rater Training
  - Performance Dimension Training (PDT)
  - Frame of Reference Training (FOR)
  - Behavioral Observation Training (BOT)
- Common rater errors
- Review of behavioral items
- Feedback principles and practice
- Debrief and summary

# Professionalism

1. Professional status, methods, character, or standards.
2. The use of professional performers, as in athletics or in the arts.

*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.*  
Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

# So, is Professionalism:

- A dichotomous state of being?
- A collection of innate values?
- A series of behaviors?
- An approach used in addressing work challenges?
- Dependent upon one's stage of medical training?

## Scrubin'



[Try the New YouTube Player Beta!](#)

Rate: ★★★★★ 158 ratings

Views: 83,887

Share

Favorite

Playlists

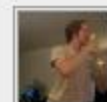
Flag

MySpace

Facebook

Digg

(more share options)



From: **MedSchoolRock**

Joined: 1 year ago

Videos: 2

[Subscribe](#)

Added: **May 09, 2007** ([More info](#))

First year medical school class takes some time...

Embed:

[Customize](#)

<object width="425" height="355"><param name="movie" value="http://

► More From: MedSchoolRock

▼ Related Videos



**Like a Surgeon** Feat. UT MED Hotties

03:30 From: XTRERA

Views: 27,519



**Mo Med School Mo Problems - GW Folies 2007**

02:47 From: jaychluri

Views: 13,048



**I'm Gonna Be a Doc**

04:33 From: hingtigriss

Views: 12,132



**StudyBack**

04:09 From: jkherson

Views: 125,497



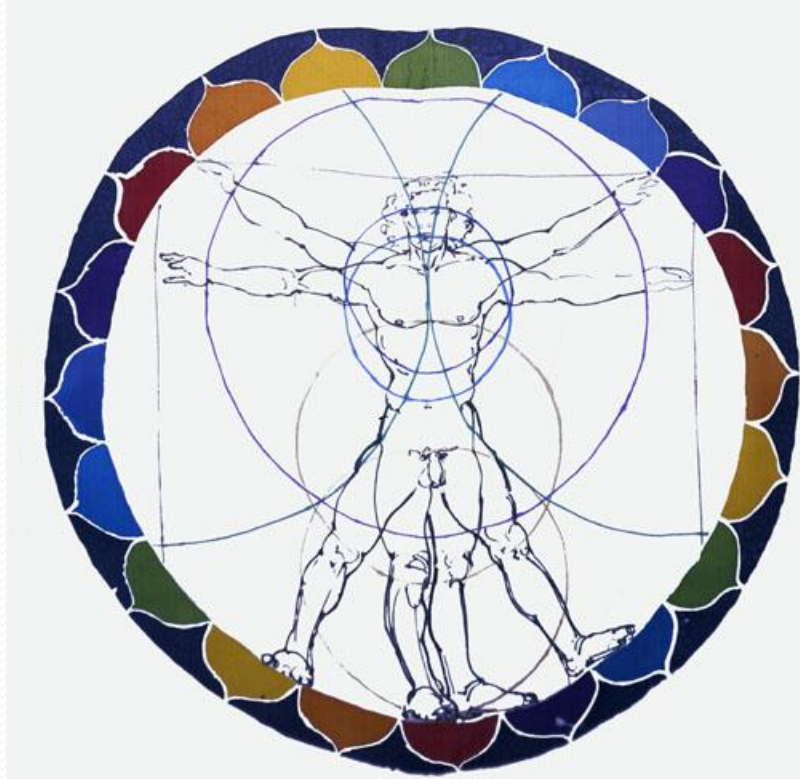
**No Scrubs**

02:16 From: metaltits3

Views: 15,079



# Elements of Professionalism





[Home](#)[About the NBME](#)[Students & Residents](#)[Schools & Residency Programs](#)[Customized Assessment Services](#)[Faculty Workshops](#)[International Foundations of  
Medicine](#)[Medical School Liaison Program](#)[Professional Behaviors](#)[APB Program Elements](#)[APB Support](#)[APB Research](#)[FAQ on the APB Program](#)[Assessment for New Residents](#)[Self-Assessment Services](#)[Subject Exams](#)[Health Profession Organizations](#)[Practicing Physicians](#)[Certification & Transcripts](#)[Newsroom](#)[Publications](#)[Research](#)

Assessment of

## PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS

A MULTI-COMPETENCY, MULTI-SOURCE FEEDBACK PROGRAM

## Assessment of Professional Behaviors Program

The **APB Program** supports continuous learning among residents, fellows, and faculty around communication and interpersonal skills, professionalism, and practice-based learning and improvement.

Through multisource feedback, physicians at all levels of training and practice can gain broad perspective on behaviors observed by their colleagues. By bringing a standardized approach to assessment of professional behaviors, the program also helps departments and institutions strengthen training and mentoring.

### The APB Program:

- Addresses ACGME core competencies and LCME and Joint Commission requirements.
- Is designed to be formative, leading to individual insight and improvement.
- Provides multisource feedback on 22 observed behaviors. Observers may include:

### Testimonial



*"It helped a couple of our residents who were having some issues to see that a number of people had similar comments, the fact that this isn't just one person's opinion. We could look at that and say, maybe we need to pay attention to it and come up with a plan."*

*—An Associate Program Director,  
Neurosurgery*

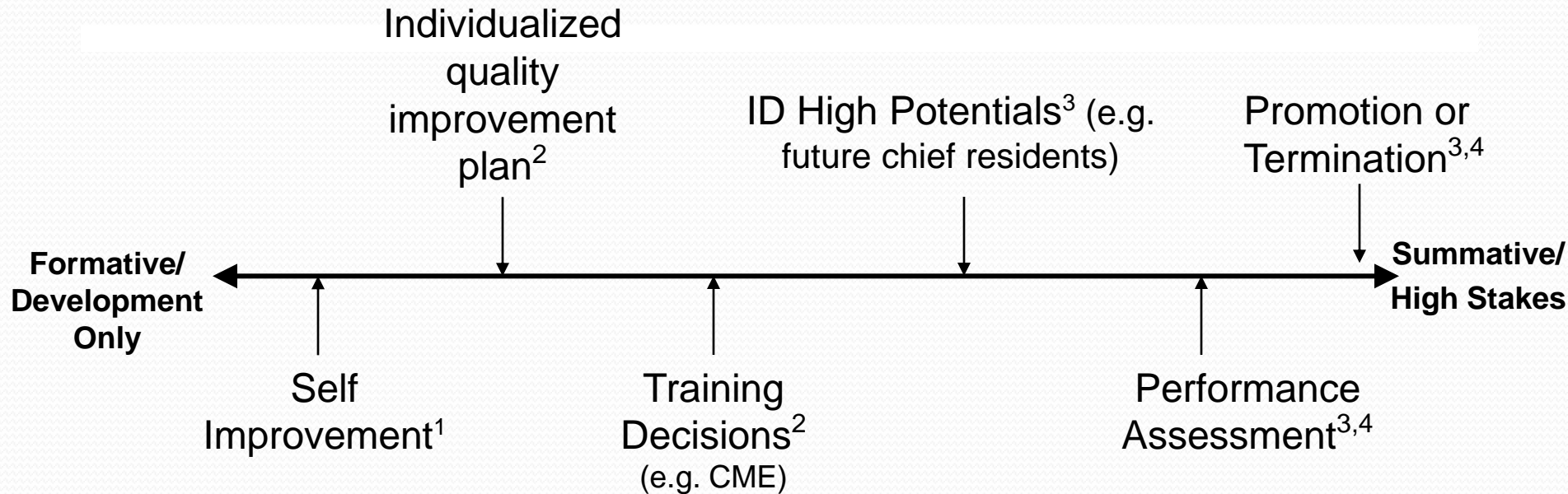
<http://www.nbme.org/schools/apb/>

# The NBME Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) Multisource Feedback program

- A systematically developed instrument to assess observable behaviors
- A web-based system to collect, track and collate responses
- A source of quantitative and narrative feedback to learners
- An educational program to enhance:
  - Skill as observers
  - Skill as feedback providers

# Rater Training

# What is the Purpose of an Assessment Program?



<sup>1</sup>Only ratee sees results

<sup>2</sup>Usually requires supervisor participation (sees feedback)

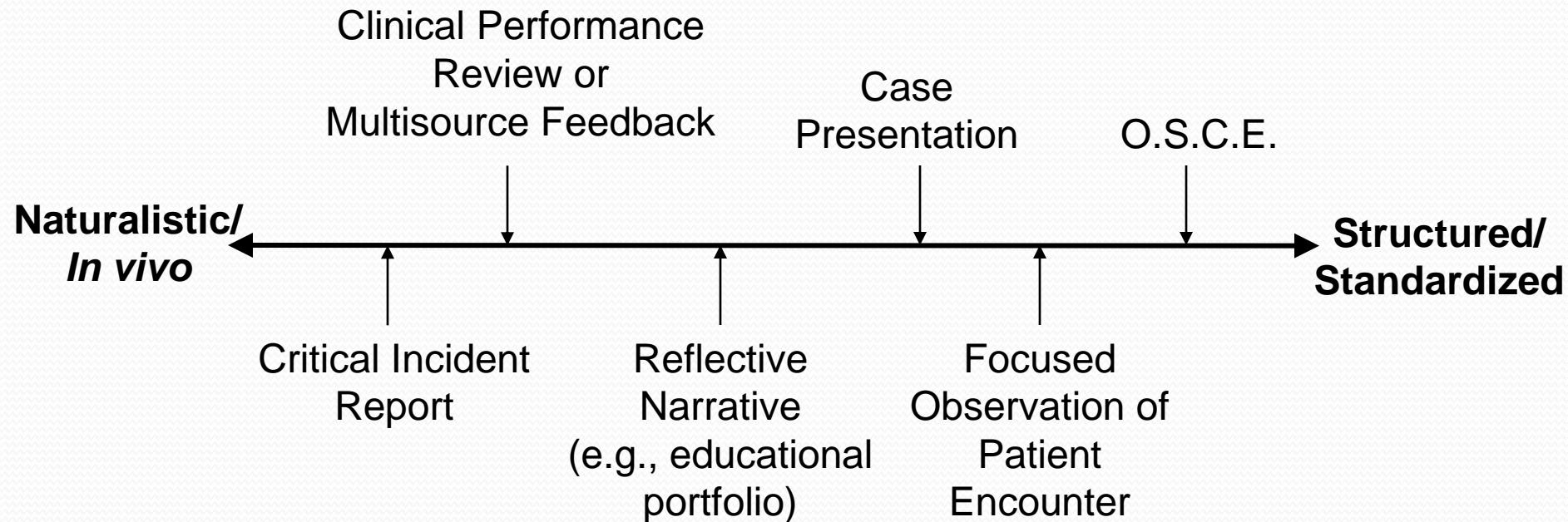
<sup>3</sup>Organization has access to data

<sup>4</sup>Little or no development use

## Factors

- Degree of impact on Individual
- Importance to Organization
- Resource Implications

# What is the Context for Behavior Assessment?



- Variable degrees of spontaneity/control for:
  - Stimulus
  - Measurement

# Rationale for Rater Training

- Enhance ability to use rating instrument
- Enhance willingness to provide ratings
  - Willingness is a function of both rater training AND program design

# Selecting Type of Rater Training

- Depends upon:
  - Domains being rated
    - Example: diagnostic reasoning skills vs. professionalism
  - Context in which rating occurs
    - Example: direct observation vs. case based discussion
  - Type of rating scale
    - Example: frequency vs. agreement scale



# Forms of Rater Training

- Performance dimension training (PDT)
- Frame of reference training (FOR)
- Behavior observation training (BOT)
- Rater error training (RET)

# Performance Dimension Training (PDT)

- Involves familiarizing faculty with the specific dimensions of competence
- Should involve discussion of the “qualifications” required for each dimension
- Use specific definitions of competencies to “calibrate” faculty

# Forms of Rater Training

PDT

Agreement on essential  
dimensions within a  
competency

Discrete behaviors on  
frequency scale



Observation, identification  
and recall of specific  
behaviors

BOT

Constructs or broader  
domains on agreement  
or quality scale

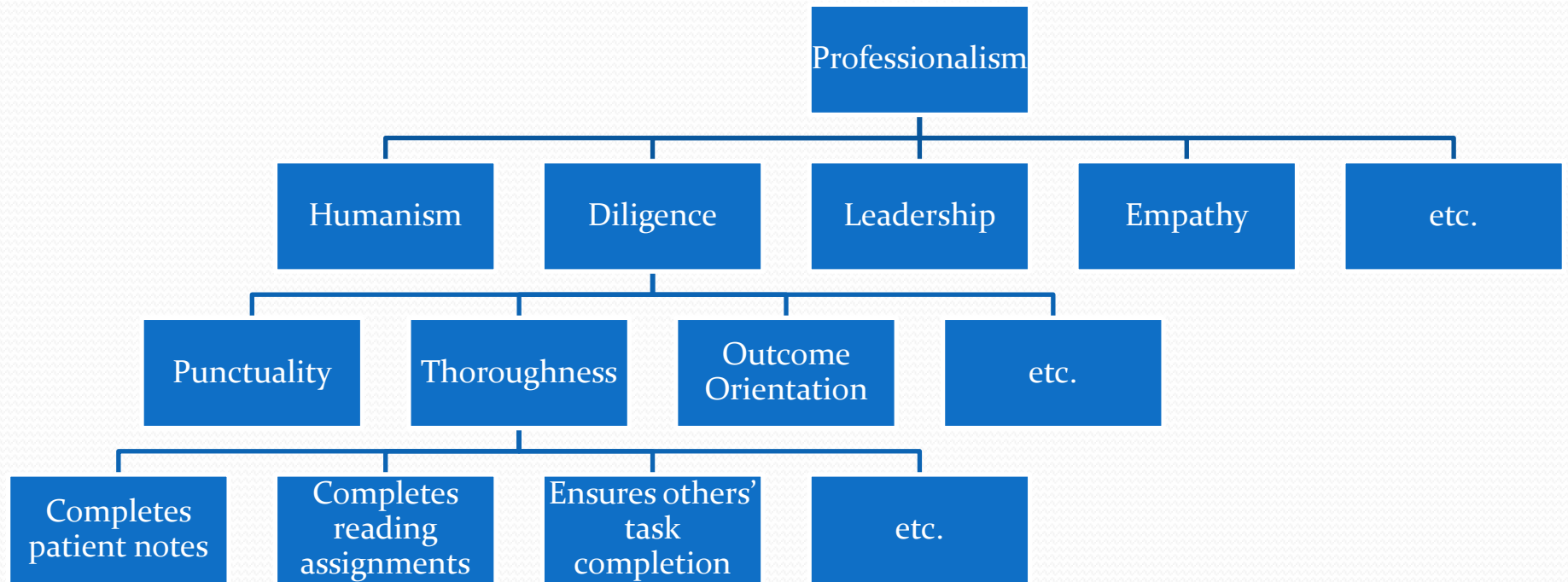


Application of a common  
standard or criteria in rating  
domains

FOR

# Example: Professionalism

- PDT – What are the essential dimensions?
- BOT – What are the specific behaviors, and how will we measure?
- FOR – Common agreement about “thoroughness”



# Domain-specific Rater Training Issues

- Diagnostic reasoning skills
  - Minimal level of case-based knowledge
  - Questioning skills:
    - Specific vs. generic
    - Forward vs. backward
- Professionalism
  - Agreement regarding desired behaviors
  - Identification and recall of specific behaviors

# Rater Error Training (RET)

- Increase rater awareness of common errors
  - Halo effect
  - Leniency error
  - Contrast error
  - Friendship bias
  - First impression error
- Efforts to force rating adjustments may decrease accuracy



# “True” Ratings

History taking	1	2	3	4	5
Physical exam	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	1	2	3	4	5
Documentation	1	2	3	4	5
Differential diagnosis	1	2	3	4	5
Patient management	1	2	3	4	5
Procedural skills	1	2	3	4	5
Professionalism	1	2	3	4	5

# Halo Effect

History taking	1	2	3	4	5
Physical exam	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	1	2	3	4	5
Documentation	1	2	3	4	5
Differential diagnosis	1	2	3	4	5
Patient management	1	2	3	4	5
Procedural skills	1	2	3	4	5
Professionalism	1	2	3	4	5

# Leniency Error

History taking	1	2	3	4	5
Physical exam	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	1	2	3	4	5
Documentation	1	2	3	4	5
Differential diagnosis	1	2	3	4	5
Patient management	1	2	3	4	5
Procedural skills	1	2	3	4	5
Professionalism	1	2	3	4	5

# Rater Training: Summary

- Essential for effective rating
  - Doesn't exist in isolation: supportive environment and monitoring necessary
- Elements of rater training will vary by:
  - Domains being rating
  - Context in which rating occurs
  - Type of scale used for rating

# Behavioral Items to Assess Professionalism

# Typical Professionalism Assessment?

COMPETENCY	1	2	3	4	5
Medical Knowledge					
Patient Care					
Interpersonal and Communication skills					
<b>Professionalism</b>					
Practice-based Learning					
System-based Practice and Improvement					

# Sources of Behavioral Items

- The Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) Program (NBME)
- The Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (Interprofessional Education Collaborative\*)

\* American Association of Colleges of **Nursing**, American Association of Colleges of **Osteopathic Medicine**, American Association of Colleges of **Pharmacy**, American **Dental** Education Association, Association of American **Medical** Colleges, and Association of Schools of **Public Health**

Copyright© 2012 by the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®). All rights reserved.



# Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Competency Domains

- Competency Domain 1: Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice
- Competency Domain 2: Roles/Responsibilities
- Competency Domain 3: Interprofessional Communication
- Competency Domain 4: Teams and Teamwork

# Feedback Principles and Practice

# Feedback:

Is:

neutral

a punishment

a gift

?

Definition: knowledge of the results of any behavior, considered as influencing or modifying further performance

# Transtheoretical Model (TTM) of Behavior Change

- Five-stage process or continuum related to a person's readiness to change:
  - Precontemplation
  - Contemplation
  - Preparation
  - Action
  - Maintenance
  - (Termination)

# Task-level Feedback

- Focuses on how to perform the job better
- Examples
  - “Review the current literature for the chief complaint of each admission”
  - “Respond to each page within 5 minutes”
  - “Solicit information from other members of the health care team”

This can be effective feedback

# Motivational Feedback

- Focuses on amount and direction of effort expended to perform a job
- Examples
  - “Spend 10 minutes at the beginning of each day identifying tasks to be completed by day’s end”
  - “Set specific work goals, and reward yourself when a goal is attained”

This can be effective feedback

# Self-level Feedback

- Deals with abstract, general statements about personal characteristics and work-related tendencies
- Examples
  - “Amara is too shy”
  - “Adam puts his personal life before his work”

This should be avoided



# Handout

- General Sequence for a Feedback Session
- Formative Feedback Guidelines
- Pitfalls of Multisource Feedback

# Action Plan

- 1-3 insights from feedback
- 1-2 change goals
- Action step(s) to address goal(s)
- Timeline for action steps
- Date for next reassessment/review

# Sequence for a Difficult Session

- Observation
  - Allow learner to criticize the MSF process
  - Review how process works; feedback v. grading
- Reflection
  - Encourage learner to verbalize feelings and recall incidents
  - Ask learner if they recognize anything in MSF
  - Ask learner to recall goals of the program
- Action
  - Ask learner what feedback they would like to receive in subsequent MSF surveys

# Feedback Checklist/Scorecard

- Feedback is specific
- Feedback is based on program's goals
- Feedback is timed appropriately
- Feedback is balanced
- Learner is allowed to react to feedback
- Feedback is supported by learning climate
- Feedback includes a plan for action

# Summary

- Feedback is enhanced by preparation, and by including key elements in each feedback session
- Faculty training increases the quality of information collected about learners
- Agreement about what is important and how it is measured enhances the quality of assessments, and of educational outcomes