

Title:

Speak and Be Heard! Understanding the Issues and Challenges Experienced by Physicians in Effectively Communicating With Their Patients

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Objectives:

Integrated into the CANMEDS 2005 (Frank, 2005) framework are competencies that demand an expanded role for physicians to dialogue with their patients. This research was designed to address issues and obstacles experienced by physicians in their communications with patients across multiple therapeutic domains.

Key points:

Physicians struggle to reconcile their role as 'Medical Expert' with the role of 'Communicator' in dialoguing with their patients, and these issues impact patient adherence. Evidence from this research indicates that educational designers and providers should expand their initiatives to incorporate opportunities for physicians to enhance their skills and confidence in developing effective physician-patient communication that can foster adherence and improved clinical outcomes.