

Physician scores on a national clinical skills examination as predictors of complaints to medical regulatory authorities.

February 3, 2011

Tamblyn R, Abrahamowicz M, Dauphinee D, et al. Physician scores on a national clinical skills examination as predictors of complaints to medical regulatory authorities. JAMA. 2007;298(9):993-1001.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/physician-scores-national-clinical-skills-examination-predictors-complaints-medical>

Poor physician-patient communication has been implicated as a factor in malpractice lawsuits. This Canadian study sought to characterize the effect of communication skills at the individual physician level, by linking scores on a standardized clinical skills examination to complaints filed by patients. Lower communication scores were significantly associated with future patient complaints, especially complaints relating specifically to poor communication. A prior [commentary](#) discussed ways of identifying problem physicians.