When a situation arises wherein a physician’s medical knowledge or clinical skills are called into question, LifeGuard is a resource for the physician or referring entity. LifeGuard evaluates and assesses the neurocognitive status, physical status, and medical knowledge of referred physicians and provides an objective report describing assessment results and recommendations for remediation (if applicable).

**CLINICAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT**

LifeGuard conducts clinical competency assessments for physician participants utilizing a custom-designed approach. Numerous assessment tools are available to LifeGuard’s medical directors and program staff. These assessment tools, coupled with participant-specific preceptor and proctor experiences enable LifeGuard to provide a comprehensive clinical competency assessment report to the referring entity.

Medical knowledge is assessed primarily through the use of the Post Licensure Assessment System’s (PLAS) practice-based exams (created by the National Board of Medical Examiners® [NBME®] and Federation of State Medical Boards [FSMB]).

Additional assessment tools include standardized patients tailored to the physician’s specialty and simulations to test procedural and specialty skills (e.g. anesthesiology and emergency medicine). When utilizing these tools, the physician participant is also assessed on both individual communication skills and appropriateness of documentation.

**PROGRAM PATHWAYS**

**REENTRY/REINSTATEMENT**  Provides medical licensing boards with a referral resource for physicians who wish to reenter the practice of medicine after an absence or for reinstatement of license after a disciplinary action.

LifeGuard selects various assessment tools to measure clinical competence as part of the reentry case management process. A unique and common component involves time in an active practice setting through a customized preceptorship or shadowing arrangement.

**QUALITY OF CARE/CLINICAL DEFICIT**  Provides entities and organizations with a resource to address suspected or already evident quality of care issues by assessing a physician’s medical knowledge and clinical decision-making skills.

LifeGuard selects various assessment tools to measure clinical competence as part of the case management process. A unique and common component involves time in an active practice setting through a customized preceptorship or shadowing arrangement.

**FITNESS FOR DUTY**  Provides a resource to measure physical and cognitive status. Core components of the assessment include an independent, objective measurement of cognitive and physical functioning, as well as fine motor skills. These assessments become necessary as physicians age, have a change in medical status, or if there are concerns with patient safety. Clinical skills can be assessed if necessary.

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND CIA FULFILLMENT**  Provides assistance with meeting the goals and objectives outlined in a consent agreement issued through a state licensure board or a federal corporate integrity agreement. Services can include but are not limited to regular practice monitoring; documentation and coding audits; improving methods of documentation, which can include moving a practice from handwritten documentation to an EHR; as well as implementation of best practices.

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MONITORING AND EDUCATION

LifeGuard develops individualized recommendations for remediation based on deficiencies identified through the assessment process or as required by a state licensure board or a federal corporate integrity agreement. The customized recommendations for remediation could include:

- customized educational programs approved for physicians to receive *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (CME)
- over 60+ *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (CME) available through the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s online offerings
- customized, ongoing practice monitoring
- professionalism and communication mentoring and/or coursework
- diagnostic examinations or testing
- education specific to opioid prescribing patterns, documentation, and legal ramifications
- simulation laboratory remediation
- medical record documentation and coding