

Using Implementation Science to Increase Resident Engagement in Entrustable Professional Activities

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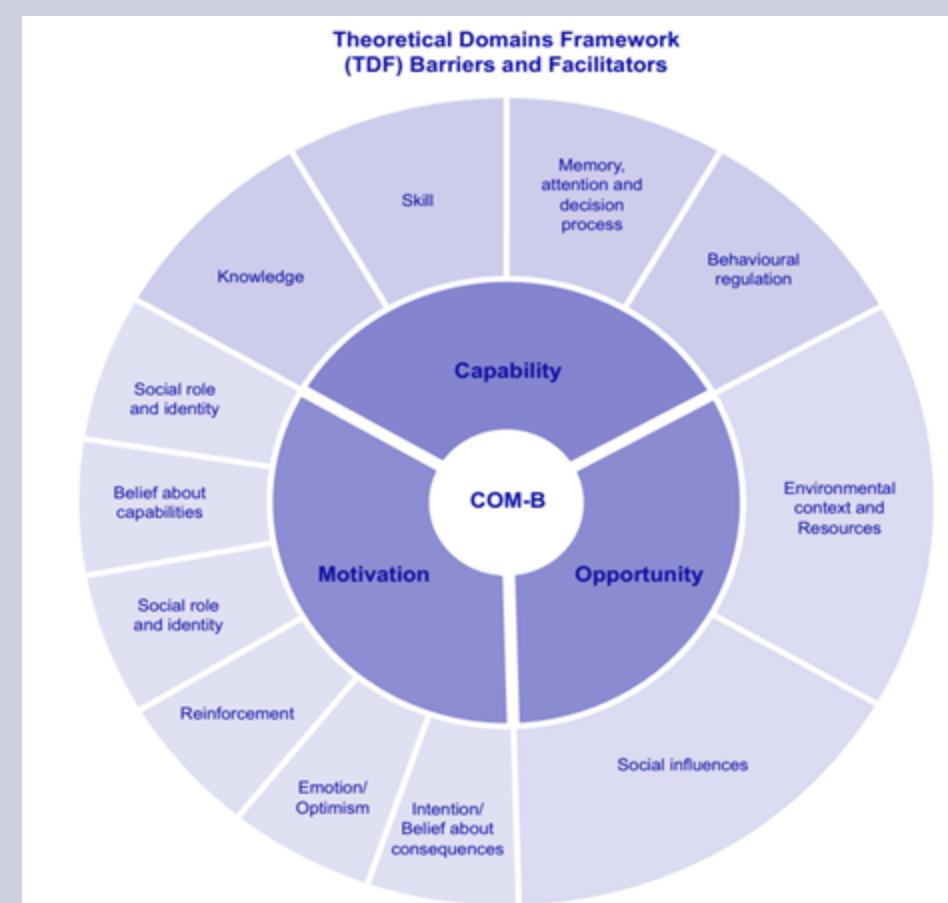
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Background

- In 2022, the American Board of Surgery announced the move to competency-based education and assessment via Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs).
- EPAs: framework for providing objective feedback that limits assessment bias.
- Implementing new assessment practices requires resident behavior change.
- Implementation Science (IS)**: study of methods and strategies that facilitate the uptake of evidence-based practice and research into regular use.
- Capability, Opportunity, Motivation Behavior (COM-B) Model**: framework for understanding behavior and behavioral change.
- Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF)**: used to identify determinants of behavior in healthcare professionals.

Objective

This study used the COM-B and TDF models to characterize barriers and facilitators to general surgery resident engagement with EPAs.



Methods

- Online survey administered via Qualtrics to general surgery residents at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.
- Survey results analyzed in the context of the COM-B model and TDF to identify barriers and facilitators to resident engagement with EPAs.

Figure 1. COM-B Model Aligned with Components of the TDF of Behavior Change

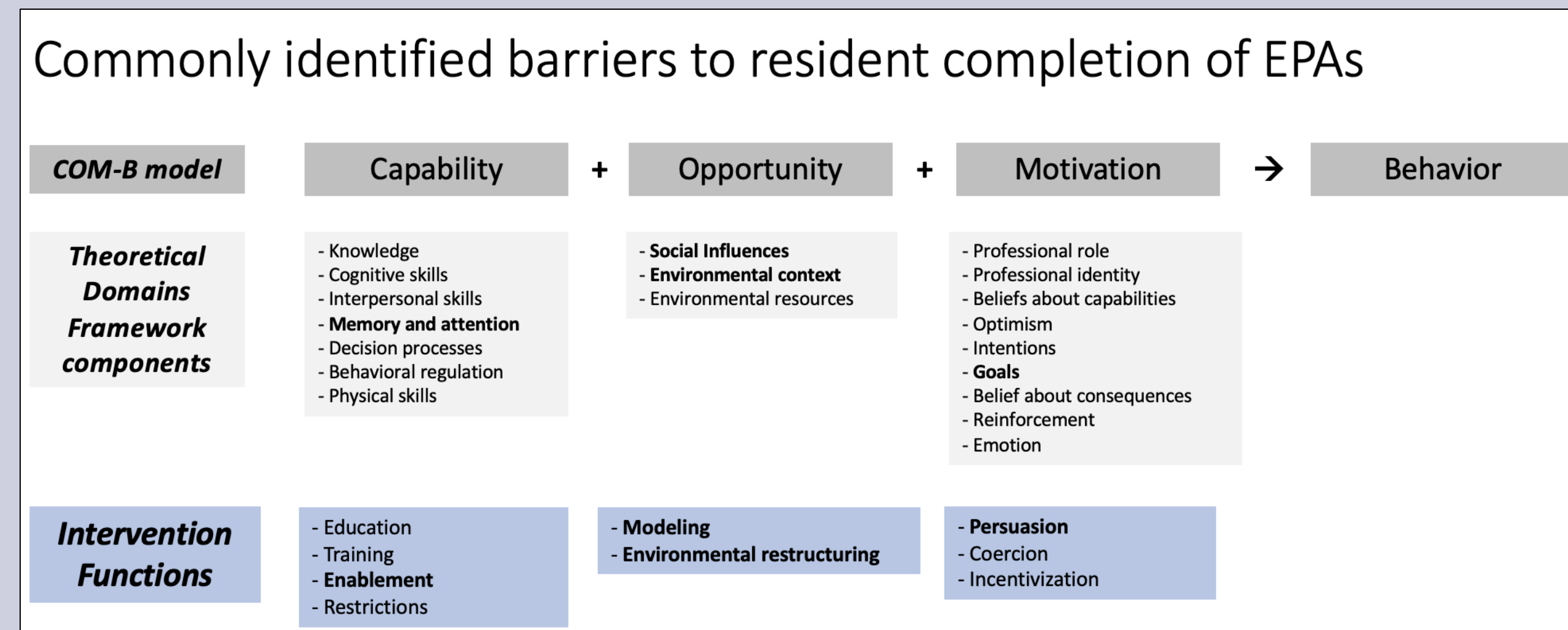
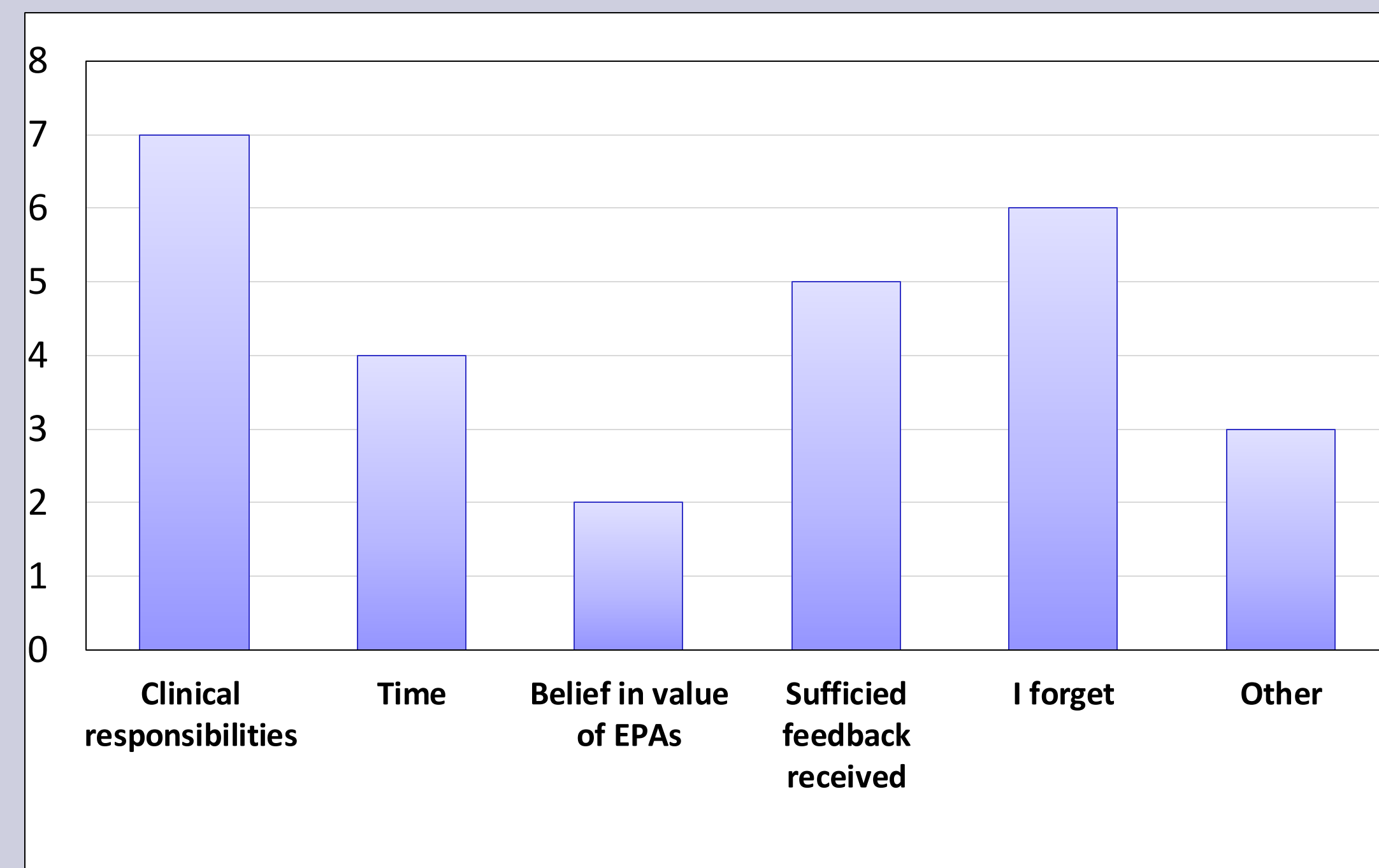


Figure 2. Resident Reported Barriers to EPA Implementation



Results

- Data collection ongoing with 12 respondents: 2 PGY1, 4 PGY2, 1 PGY3, 3 research year, 1 PGY5, 1 PGY6.
- 75% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that “EPAs enhance the quality of feedback received as a resident.”
- 58% of respondents thought that EPAs will improve surgical education.
- Barriers to EPA completion: memory/attention, environmental context, social influences, concrete goal setting. (**Figure 1**)
- Facilitators of engagement: EPA knowledge, optimism, positive beliefs about EPAs, intentions of increasing EPA use. (**Figure 1**)

Conclusions

- Barriers to EPA engagement identified in the domains of Opportunity > Motivation > Capability.
- Facilitating EPA completion requires interventions that focus on environmental restructuring (e.g., automation of EPA completion reminders), enablement (e.g., structuring EPA assessment into daily tasks), modeling (e.g., faculty engagement), and persuasion (e.g., support from departmental leaders).
- Next steps:** qualitative interviews with residents

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