

Children's Mercy Kansas City

## SHARE @ Children's Mercy

---

Research Days

GME Research Days 2023

---

May 10th, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

### **“There’s a difference in practice when you have to make the decision”: Autonomy in pediatric emergency medicine fellowship**

Katherine Dunne

*Children's Mercy Kansas City*

Vivek Dubey

*Children's Mercy Hospital*

Sarkan Toy

Camryn Martinez

Kelsey Gavin

*Children's Mercy Kansas City*

*See next page for additional authors*

Let us know how access to this publication benefits you

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/researchdays>



Part of the [Emergency Medicine Commons](#), [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Pediatrics Commons](#)

---

Dunne, Katherine; Dubey, Vivek; Toy, Sarkan; Martinez, Camryn; Gavin, Kelsey; and Kennedy, Christopher S., "“There’s a difference in practice when you have to make the decision”: Autonomy in pediatric emergency medicine fellowship" (2023). *Research Days*. 12.

[https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/researchdays/GME\\_Research\\_Days\\_2023/ResearchDay3/12](https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/researchdays/GME_Research_Days_2023/ResearchDay3/12)

This Abstract is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences and Events at SHARE @ Children's Mercy. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Days by an authorized administrator of SHARE @ Children's Mercy. For more information, please contact [hlsteel@cmh.edu](mailto:hlsteel@cmh.edu).

---

**Submitting/Presenting Author**

Katherine Dunne, Vivek Dubey, Sarkan Toy, Camryn Martinez, Kelsey Gavin, and Christopher S. Kennedy

# “There’s a difference in practice when you have to make the decision”: Autonomy in pediatric emergency medicine

Kurland K<sup>1</sup>; Dubey V<sup>1</sup>; Toy S<sup>2</sup>; Martinez C<sup>3</sup>; Gavin K<sup>1</sup>; Kennedy C<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Children’s Mercy Kansas City, MO; <sup>2</sup> Virginia Tech, Roanoke, VA, <sup>3</sup> KU SOM, Kansas City, MO

## BACKGROUND

- The ACGME allows individual training programs to define appropriate supervision and autonomy commensurate with the trainees’ knowledge, clinical competence, and patient complexity and acuity.
- In pediatric emergency medicine (PEM), supervision is not standardized and subject to supervisor discretion, creating variability in trainee autonomy.

## METHODS

- Qualitative study with semi-structured interviews of PEM fellows and faculty from a large, single-center pediatric emergency medicine fellowship program.
- A trained interviewer conducted the interviews over an electronic interview platform.
- Interview transcriptions were analyzed using a hybrid thematic analysis approach to identify themes.

Figure 1: Selected Quotes from transcripts

“If you’re always helping me, or if you’re the helicopter parent, how do I know if I actually can be competent in this profession?” - Fellow

“I don’t think it’s easy to learn autonomy if you are telling an attending about every single patient you see ... to generate a bill.” - Attending

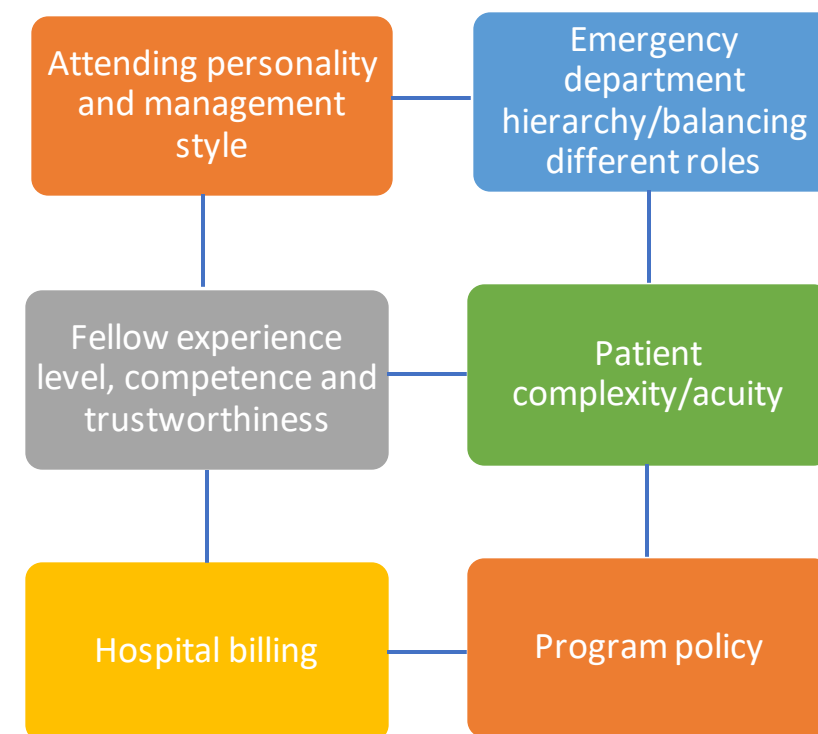
“I wish there was more graduation of autonomy at a faster rate. And I think not having that autonomy makes you feel as if you’re not trusted to make the decision-making, and that makes you second-guess your decision-making.” - Fellow

“I worry, actually, I worry a lot...[fellows and residents are] never alone, and you really don’t know how to force those decisions until you have to, until you are by yourself and there is no safety net.” - Attending

## RESULTS

- 16 faculty and 13 fellows completed interviews.
- PEM faculty and fellows highly value autonomous clinical decision-making.
- Departmental policy and economic factors influence the nature of supervision for PEM fellows.
- Trainees desire formalized graduated autonomy allowing them to acquire competence for independent clinical practice.

Figure 2: Main factors influencing PEM fellow autonomy



## CONCLUSIONS

- Both fellows and faculty acknowledge the importance of autonomy, but differences exist in how each group views supervision as it facilitates training.
- Opportunities for fellow autonomy that include complete ownership of patients (without direct attending oversight) are perceived as necessary to learn independent decision-making.