
ABSTRACT

Establishing a “growth ladder” for psychologists involved in consultation-liaison

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The purpose of this study was to establish a “growth ladder”—competencies arranged in stages from entry level to independent—for psychologists involved in consultation-liaison (CL) in the medical field. We conducted a three-round study with 78 psychologists with CL experience of 10 years or more. In the first round, we presented a list of competency items generated from a qualitative survey and asked the psychologists to identify essential items and to comment on these based on their professional experience. In the second round, we presented the list generated from the first round and asked the participants to evaluate priorities for the entry level and to indicate their view of the appropriate length of time to CL independence. In the final round, the participants judged suitable levels on the growth ladder established from the second round. Accordingly, we established a model of four stages for the growth ladder, with five years to reach the independent level. The model generated 95 items with 95% agreement. Using this ladder, we can develop a training program for CL.

Key Words: consultation-liaison, psychologists, competency, growth ladder
