

Residents learning CanMEDS competencies through a curriculum web initiative

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Keywords: CanMEDS, e-learning, evaluation

This paper describes an interactive e-learning CanMEDS curriculum initiative and the positive results after its first year of implementation for postgraduate year 1 and 2 residents. With over 2000 postgraduate trainees at the University of Toronto and decentralized teaching sites, it is difficult to teach residents, in a consistent and coordinated fashion, the less traditional core knowledge and skills required by CanMEDS.

The Core Curriculum Web Initiative, PGCorEd™, was implemented in 2008 for all year 1 and 2 residents with the launch of End of Life Care© and Resident as Manager©—the first 2 of 10 web-based e-learning modules. This paper describes how PGCorEd™ is designed to meet the practical realities of residency training and learning, responding to when, where and how each resident needs information. Each module is approximately 4 hours in length and includes several units.

The paper describes the curricular design, including video vignettes based on real interprofessional clinical scenarios, interactive questions designed to maintain trainees' interest, links to resources, self-assessment quizzes, staff reflections on their experiences, and downloadable take-away resources. The paper also describes the modules' assessment of learning, which uses case-based keyfeatures quizzes that include a variety of question formats. The paper shows how the program evaluation for the first 2 modules demonstrates PGCorEd™'s effectiveness with respect to the trainees' acquisition and retention of knowledge.

Early results are quite positive with respect to impact on learning and utility to residents across diverse training programs. Additionally, the program evaluations are guiding improvements to these modules as well as helping to improve the quality of the additional modules under development. This e-learning curriculum development is preventing duplication of effort in teaching the shared core knowledge and skills required by CanMEDS across specialties and will allow the programs to focus on program-specific education and evaluation of the CanMEDS competencies.