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Addressing Immigrant Health in the Emergency Department: An Interprofessional Perspective

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Introduction: In 2012 the Academic Emergency Medicine conference consensus stated, “flexibility of scheduling with a Web-based asynchronous teaching model, coupled with its similar effectiveness to traditional methods, makes it a very attractive adjunct to development of a well-balanced EM didactic curriculum”. In the ten years since this statement was released asynchronous learning has increased in popularity among emergency medicine (EM) residents, however novel asynchronous curricula remain limited. Our faculty were interested in implementing an educational initiative that would encourage learning outside of didactics and could be tailored to the educational needs of our residents.

Objectives: Visual Odyssey (VO) is an asynchronous learning initiative with goals of encouraging self-directed learning by residents and increasing knowledge regarding recognition and treatment of classic conditions in EM.

Design: VO is an email containing a prompt and a picture followed by several questions. The VO topics are chosen by the faculty and questions require 15 minutes to complete. The VO is sent out weekly with a new prompt as well as answers to last week’s questions. There is an incentive for participation. This novel format allows faculty to have autonomy in choosing topics they feel are integral to resident education or gaps in our curriculum. This method is appealing to the residents because of its convenience and brevity.

Impact: A survey answered by 35 of 36 residents revealed that 76.5% found VO to be “Beneficial” or “Very Beneficial” to their learning. On average 40% of residents submit answers. Interestingly, 76.4% of residents work through the cases or look at the answer slides even if they do not submit. This indicates the residents are utilizing VO as a tool for asynchronous learning regardless of the incentive.

When asked why residents did not submit a response, forgetfulness was mentioned most. Given this a future change is to distribute a weekly reminder.

Addressing Immigrant Health in the Emergency Department: An Interprofessional Perspective

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Introduction/Background: To understand knowledge gaps in the healthcare of immigrants, we conducted interprofessional needs assessment interviews with local attorneys, physicians, and social workers who work with immigrants. Clinicians, both in the literature and through our needs assessment, note significant gaps in immigrant health. There is a need for a medical education intervention, ideally during emergency medicine (EM) residency.

Educational Objectives: Our objectives were developed based on themes that emerged from the 11 interprofessional needs assessment interviews. Session objectives were 1) define the role of the EM clinician when caring for immigrants, 2) illustrate best practices around asking, documenting, and sharing immigration specific health care information, 3) outline principles in interacting with immigration law enforcement, and 4) identify existing immigration resources and advocacy opportunities.

Curricular Design: We created a 30-minute, interactive didactics session (with pair share and large group discussions) based on a real-life EM case during our residency program’s weekly didactic conference. Curriculum was reviewed by attorney and physician content experts prior to implementation. To capture the impact of the lesson, we administered pre and post surveys consisting of 5 Likert scale questions on confidence with immigration topics and 3 multiple choice content questions.

Impact/Effectiveness: A total of 38 participants completed either the pre or post survey. Overall, there was a significant improvement in both confidence (self-reported rating of 2.58 pre to 4.18 post out of 5, p-value<0.001) and knowledge (1.40 pre to 2.33 post out of 3 correct, p-value<0.001) between the two surveys. This interprofessional approach to curriculum design offers a novel approach to addressing the knowledge gap on implementation of protocols and policies pertaining to immigrant populations. We hope to expand this approach across institutions.