

Teaching EBP Skills: Does it Make a Difference?

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Objectives

- Obtain students' perceptions of their EBP knowledge & skills
- Identify extent to which module contributed to EBP skill development
- Explore barriers to using or developing EBP skills
- Investigate strategies for enhancing EBP skill development & implementation in the workplace

Design: Postal survey & interviews

Main Findings (1)

Survey: n=191 (49% response rate)

Sources of Knowledge

- >80% used information from personal experience and about individual patients to inform practice
- ~40-50% indicated they would 'frequently' use knowledge from research, medical and professional journals & from conferences

EBP Skills

- >70% indicated they felt confident to judge quality of research reports & to identify implications for practice
- >70% rated themselves as 'quite skilled' or 'competent' in EBP
- >70% perceived module contributed 'greatly' to EBP skill development

Main Findings (2)

Survey (contd.)

Barriers to Using EBP Skills

- >45% stated insufficient time to find research reports
- ~30% believed research reports were not readily available
- >40% indicated insufficient time to implement changes
- ~20% felt culture of ward/department was not receptive to changing practice **BUT**
- >50% indicated colleagues & managers were supportive of changing practice

Main Findings (3)

Interviews (n=7)

- Barriers to using & further developing EBP skills - time, IT & workplace issues
- Changes required – better access to internet databases/resources, improved intranet navigation, EBP skill development for senior managers
- Value of EBP skills – enhanced research knowledge, improved interprofessional working, aided critical thinking and teaching students

Conclusions & Recommendations

- Value of module in providing practitioners with EBP skills & knowledge was apparent

Need

- Education & training in EBP skills for senior managers & clinicians
- Protected time to practice & develop EBP skills
- Improved access/improved format regarding IT in workplace to support EBP
- More effective dissemination of evidence via intranet