

Examining Training Experiences and Practice Patterns of Graduates of Enhanced Skills Programs

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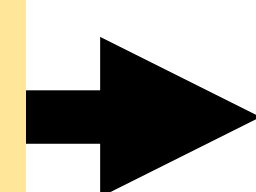
INTRODUCTION

- Enhanced Skills (ES) training provides additional training to family physicians in Canada. We aimed to better understand the training experiences of physicians who have completed ES training at one Canadian university.
- Objective: To explore the training experiences of physicians who graduated from ES programs at the

METHODS

- Design: A mixed methods study using both survey and interviews to explore graduates perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of ES programs.

Online Survey



Online Interviews

- Outcome Measures. Perceived strengths and weaknesses.

RESULTS

A total of 56 ES graduates completed the survey (response rate = 36.8%); Nine interviews

Clinical Issues	Overall
Management of common clinical problems	V. Prepared (41/44; 93.2%)
Referral and consultation process	V. Prepared (30/44; 68.2%)
Approach to clinical problems	V. Prepared (36/44; 81.8%)
Teaching of health promotion / prevention	V. Prepared (19/44; 43.2%)
In-hospital management of patients	V. Prepared (22/44; 50.0%)
Evidence-based Medicine (critical appraisal)	V. Prepared (26/44; 59.1%)
Procedural Skills	V. Prepared (20/44; 45.5%)
Urgent/Emergency Care	V. Prepared (21/44; 47.7%)
Psychosomatic problems	S. Prepared (25/44; 56.8%)
Management of psychosocial problems	S. Prepared (21/44; 47.7%)
End-of-Life / Palliative Care	S. Prepared (18/44; 40.9%)
Cost-effective Use of Diagnostic Tests	S. Prepared (16/44; 36.4%)
Continuity of Care	S. Prepared (15/44; 34.9%)
General Issues	Overall
Communication skills	V. Prepared (27/44; 61.4%)
Clinical/medical ethics	S. Prepared (31/44; 70.5%)
Cross-cultural issues	S. Prepared (28/44; 63.6%)
Health care system	S. Prepared (24/44; 54.5%)
Health care reform	S. Prepared (21/44; 47.7%)
Maintenance of clinical competence	S. Prepared (19/44; 43.2%)
Relating to professional organization	S. Prepared (24/44; 54.5%)
Physician self-care and wellness	S. Prepared (24/44; 54.5%)
Practice Management Issues	Overall
Medical/legal issues	S. Prepared (24/44; 54.5%)
Issues related to establishing a practice	S. Prepared (23/44; 53.5%)
Organization of practice	S. Prepared (24/44; 55.8%)
Clinic records	S. Prepared (19/44; 43.2%)
Electronic medical records	S. Prepared (20/44; 45.5%)

Most Perceived Strengths (Survey)

- Program organization (40/48, 83.3%)
- Approachability of instructors (39/47, 83.0%)
- Availability of resources (38/47, 80.9%)
- Structured Learning (36/48, 75%)
- Examination Process – Oral (26/39, 66.7%)
- Flexibility to meet indiv. needs (31/47, 66.0%)

Most Perceived as Neutral/Weakness (Survey)

- Evaluation Process - Faculty (33/48, 68.8%)
- Awareness of rural needs/opp (29/42, 60.4%)
- Evaluation Process - Residents (26/48, 54.2%)
- Evaluation Process - Program (25/48, 52.1%)

Four Themes from Interviews (n=9)

- Residents gained core skills and academic knowledge
- It is important to have skilled and committed preceptors
- Resident wellness and work-life balance are differentially impacted, the program can be lengthened and strengthened.

CONCLUSION

Taken together, results suggest that the experiences of graduates overwhelmingly support ES programs. These results can help tailor the programs going forward to build a better experience.