The Education Shift: A Novel Curriculum to Integrate Evidence-based Medicine into Bedside Practice for Senior Emergency Medicine Residents

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Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health, 15(5.1)

1936-900X

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2014

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Peer reviewed
Background: Integration of evidence-based medicine (EBM) into daily practice in the Emergency Department is critical for patient-centered care and is included in the ACGME milestones. Successfully incorporating EBM at the bedside is challenging for emergency physicians due to inadequate training in the skill-set and perceived time-pressures during a clinical shift.

Educational Objectives: Our primary goals are to develop skills for finding, appraising, and applying evidence in real time to assist with patient care and to introduce residents to the peer-review process. We are building a searchable archive of appraised clinical questions and generating dialogue within the residency about the value of point-of-care EBM.

Curricular Design: We designed an 8-hour Education “E” Shift for 4th year Emergency Medicine residents once each month. The E-shift resident is a resource to those working clinically, using EBM to respond to at least 4 questions using the following steps: formulating a searchable question, identifying an article using EBM search resources, performing a structured critical appraisal of the article, and prepare a “clinical bottom line” summary applying the findings to the initial question. We developed a web interface with prompts assisting residents with each step. We added a peer-review process, in which each E-shift resident evaluates a response submitted by a colleague during a previous E-shift and selects one of their own responses for future peer-review. We publish each peer-reviewed response on our residency website. Every two weeks, we post a selected response on the “E-shift blog” for faculty and resident discussion.

Impact: Surveys suggest that E-shift has been successful, with 77% of participating residents reporting that it is educationally valuable and 66% that it has increased their ability to apply EBM to patient care. The E-shift blog has generated significant interest and dialogue within our residency.