

POSTER #8

Development and Evaluation of an Information Resource for Volunteer Inpatients Participating in MD Student Clinical Skills Training

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Background: Although volunteer inpatients (VIPs) regularly participate in clinical skills training with junior medical students (JMS) at the University of Toronto, no standard recruitment method currently exists. A recent study exploring JMS-VIP clinical encounters showed that a key area for improvement was the VIP recruitment process (Elfassy et al., 2020). Patients reported a lack of adequate information provision regarding the volunteer process and role expectations. Our objective was to develop and evaluate a patient information guide to improve the VIP understanding of the experience.

Methods: The guide will be designed using a developmental evaluation approach based on the literature (Patton, 2010) and guidelines by Doak et al. (1996) for creating reader-appropriate materials. The guide will then be circulated to various stakeholders (e.g. medical students, clinical skills tutors, medical educators, patient educators, patient advocates, family members), who will evaluate it via an on-line questionnaire for style, content, plain language, impact, and overall impression. Finally, in the evaluative research phase, the latest version of the guide will be evaluated by VIPs following participation in a clinical skills session with JMS. They will complete a hard copy questionnaire assessing participant demographics and the guide for its content, style, and impact. The guide will undergo improvement accordingly.

Results & Conclusions: A preliminary draft of the guide is complete. Future directions include circulating the resource to the diverse aforementioned stakeholders for feedback. The study ultimately aims to offer the clinical skills curriculum a systematically evaluated resource to enhance the safety, security, and comfort of VIPs.