EVALUATING TRAINING USING MEDICAL EDUCATION METRICS (MEMS)

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A key to improving training and education activities is measuring them. The Medical Education Metrics (MEMS) standard provides health professions educators with a best practices template for collecting and reporting core evaluation data. MEMS is a draft standard developed by MedBiquitous, a standards development organization for healthcare learning technologies. More than a dozen organizations have contributed to the development and piloting of this standard.

MEMS is a data communication standard for aggregate metrics for a single educational activity. The XML standard can be useful for:
1. **educators** who wish to track their effectiveness across multiple activities and over time,
2. **supporters** that wish to receive reports on the efficacy and reach of educational activities, and
3. **accrediting organizations** who want to ensure that educational providers are creating effective programs.

Currently MEMS contains sections for describing an educational activity, reporting participant evaluation data, describing the participation metrics, and profiling learner demographics. Though MEMS is an electronic (XML) reporting standard, it can be used for describing a wide range of educational activities, including online learning, enduring materials, and face-to-face learning. Though currently the evaluation data is primarily Kirkpatrick level 1 data (learner reaction), participants in the standards development process would like future versions to be useful for higher level evaluation data (learning, behavior, and results). Standards for consistent evaluation and reporting will enable providers to better measure, track, and improve their educational programs.