

LEARNING CLINICAL SKILLS: HOW CAN E-LEARNING HELP?

Mary Dankbaar, Erasmus University Medical Centre Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Introduction

Doctors frequently perform medical procedures which require a high level of skills. Training of these clinical skills is usually a very limited part of the medical curriculum. Most skills are still learned in the medical practice, under supervision, the patients being the instrument of learning. In recent years this is more and more considered to be an undesirable practice. Medical students should be trained in clinical skills before entering practice. We developed a 'skills plaza' training program, consisting of e-learning modules, training stations and assessment. The presentation will demonstrate the program and share the evaluation results.

Skills plaza training program

The training program consists of the following component:

1. Develop basic and procedural knowledge of the clinical skill by doing the online training program with animations, photos, videos and interactive exercises.
2. Attending a classical session in which the principals are explained by a doctor.
3. Do a test in which sufficient knowledge of the clinical skill is shown.
4. Instruction and exercising at the skills plaza, (using training stations with phantoms), being coached by student- instructors.
5. Assessment of the skill and certification.

The e-learning program is designed as part of a skills training program to ensure efficient and adequate knowledge of the clinical skill before training. In combination with the skills training on phantoms in skills plaza, we expect the program will result in better trained and more confident students when starting their internship and performing these skills on patients.

Summary

Students will feel more confident when starting their internship if they are trained in clinical skills in a safe, realistic learning environment. Patients will benefit because they no longer are the main instruments of learning medical skills.

The presentation will explain the design of the skills plaza training program, demonstrate the e-learning modules and show evaluation results. E-learning as part of the training program will help students develop essential knowledge of the clinical skills and make the training more efficient.

Drs. Mary Dankbaar
Erasmus University Medical Centre
Opleidingsinstituut Geneeskunde, kamer Ff - 222
Postbus 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
m.dankbaar@erasmusmc.nl
www.erasmusmc.nl
Tel: + 31 10463 8161
The Netherlands