Evaluating the role, process and impact of self assessment in continuing professional development

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#2278
Presenter Disclosure Information

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No conflict of interest to disclose
Guideline Implementability

- Research → guidelines not used
- Evidence → develop a framework

**Implementability**: A differing format of a guideline or non-clinical information which help users better adopt the clinical recommendations in a guideline

ex: Self assessment tools

- 20 guidelines reviewed
Self Assessment

• What is self-assessment?
  – Reflection on practice
  – Life long learning
  – Self directed learning

• Evidence of impact
  – Identification of learning needs, modify practice, improve care delivery
  – Mandatory in the UK and USA, optional in Canada
  – Less than 10% of time spent on self-assessment
  – Only 3.8% credits submitted based on self-assessment

*Need to offer training, tools and guidance
Objectives

1) Examine availability of self-assessment tools
2) Explore physician views about self-assessment
3) Pilot test a self-assessment kit
#1- Systematic review identifying self-assessment tools
Methods

• **Scoping systematic review** (MEDLINE, EMBASE, University of Toronto Research and Development Resource Base, and Internet)

• Two reviewers independently selected eligible articles
Results: Systematic Review

2 Resources:

1) National Health Service manual
   – 100 page
   – Method, techniques, tools and activities at each stage of clinical audit
   – Tools and templates of self assessment

2) Article from the Canadian Journal of Surgery
   – 6 page
   – Brief description of the process and approach
#2- Focus groups with urologists to explore views on self-assessment
Methods

• **Focus groups** with community and academic urologists

• Frequency of survey responses were summarized
## Results: Focus groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Considered a barrier (n,%)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited time to do it</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>64.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about how to do it</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>64.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of training programs on self audit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>82.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of tools or instructions to help me do it</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>No facilitators/mentors to offer guidance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>88.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of readily available data</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>70.6</td>
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</table>
#3- Interviews with General surgeons, Internal medicine, Family medicine physicians to explore views on self-assessment
Methods

• Telephone interviews (via teleconferencing service)

• Standard qualitative analysis of verbatim transcripts
Results: Interviews

• Experience with self-assessment
  - More than 50% with no prior experience with self-assessment
  - Perceived to have no benefit
  - Time consuming

• Views
  - “It will help them by providing the best evidence-based treatment and best surgical approach for my case”
  - “make conscious changes in how you are practicing”

• Suggested support for promoting self-assessment
  - “a checklist of things that you do on every patient with the same problem”
  - “being paid would help”
  - “biggest incentive would be credits that could be gained from it”
#4- Pilot study with urologists to explore preferences and needs of self-assessment
Methods

- Development and pilot test of a **self audit kit** for pelvic lymph node dissection (PLND) for bladder cancer among 13 Ontario Urologists, followed by **telephone interview**

- Standard qualitative analysis of verbatim transcripts
Self-assessment kit

- Three up to date articles
- One page instruction with one page data extraction form
- USB key
Results: Pilot study

- **Practice insight**
  - “I made a couple of practice changes…send [nodes] as multiple individual packets…which has more than doubled my yield”

- **Self assessment process**
  - “it wasn’t as difficult as I thought it would be”
  - “it didn’t take as long as I thought it would”

- **Format**
  - “It was self-explanatory, quick and simple – that’s what made this really painless”

- **Peer guidance/mentorship**
  - “it’s pretty self explanatory and you probably wouldn’t need [mentor]”
  - Yea, that might be choosing a topic where it might be one “
  - “maybe for analyzing data if it happened to be a little bit more complex “
**Discussion**

**Summary**
- Interest expressed in self audit with greater support
- Self-assessment kit thought to be sufficient to prompt participation, satisfaction, learning and behaviour change, while the role of peer mentors remains unclear

**Implications**
- Further research is needed to generate more definitive evidence of self-assessment tools
- Better understand potential role of peer mentors
- Ultimately evaluate the impact of implementing a guideline with and without a self assessment kit
Thank-you