Innovating and Invigorating CME Updates: You Really Can Reach and Teach Old Dogs New Tricks!

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OBJECTIVES

The simulation workshop component of our Family Medicine Update is to provide meaningful, memorable CME experiences for seasoned physicians. Participants are asked to evaluate and treat a "patient" in an office based setting.

BACKGROUND

In order to be highly effective, CME programs must be framed with clear, concise, reproducible goals and objectives that reflect levels of understanding; Adult and Learning Styles Models; opportunity for the attendee to reflect on his/her own learning to facilitate further instruction and/or remediation; and maintenance of lifelong learning habits. CME programs must ensure that courses genuinely reflect practice, quickly and accurately identify knowledge gaps, and immediately remediate for correction and improvement.

METHODS

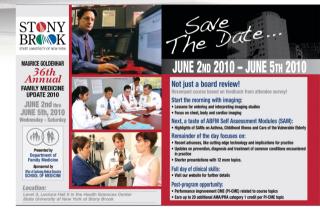
Scenario development is based on current healthcare issues. Scenarios incorporating bioterrorism, stress induced cardiomyopathy, and H1N1 influenza among others have proven to provide challenging diagnostic dilemmas for experienced physicians.

Attendees are randomly paired and each team is given a different clinical scenario. Information pertinent to the "patient's" clinical presentation such as labs, EKGs, and x-rays is made available to the diagnosing/treating team as requested. The other attendees observe the progression of the scenario through a one-way mirror and are provided with the same test data to interpret. After all scenarios are completed, a detailed debriefing session follows. All attendees are encouraged to critique the management of all the scenarios and discuss the multiple approaches to recognition and treatment of the "patient's" condition.

The organization of the simulation exercises allows all attendees to actively participate in every scenario eliminating the down time often seen with simulation based educational venues.

RESULTS

The scenarios and format have elicited very positive feedback about the realism and active participation the simulation component of the Family Medicine Update provides. Comments included "Will alter my practice performance"; "This is the BEST Format! The Simulation of Office Urgencies/Emergencies was 1+++ for format enhanced participation."; "The Simulation of Office Urgencies/Emergencies was marvelous; an excellent learning tool!





REFLECTIVE CRITIQUE

We utilized the Kirkpatrick four level model of program evaluation to assess attendee reaction, learning, behavior and results. The evaluations were used to determine program effectiveness and to improve future training programs. Several researchers validated the importance of incorporating simulation experiences into professional education and evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on feedback and reviews, we shortened the briefing period, and enhanced the debriefing by including evidence based medical references about the clinical issues being simulated and providing these materials to attendees.