

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM LEARNER: THE ROLE OF INSIGHT IN CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

Richard Hays, University of Keele and Mary Lawson, Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists

Introduction

In general, students are well motivated and perform well. Those who do not, whilst small in number can occupy a large amount of staff time and effort and pose substantial risk to themselves, their colleagues / teams and to patient safety. Reasons for poor performance include academic difficulty, attitudinal and behavioural problems; external factors and ill health (both mental and physical). Lack of insight may accompany all these and may be a primary problem. This workshop will focus on students who under-perform primarily because of lack of insight, how to define their problem, and provide targeted educational interventions to address them.

Materials and Methods

Participants will be asked to provide anonymised case-studies of students who they considered to exhibit poor insight and where there is identifiable risk to the student themselves, their team or patient care. Working in small groups, these case-studies will be used as examples to design a theoretical model capable of identifying, managing and monitoring poor insight in the undergraduate medical setting. Interventions will include mechanisms for feedback, support, recalibration and organisational communication. They will include high intensity interventions with few permitted cycles and low intensity interventions that may be repeated many times.

Results

Results of the small group work will be presented and analysed to determine whether they offer, collectively, an achievable comprehensive model to deal with issues of poor insight in the student body. Staff training requirements will also be identified.

Discussion & conclusions

Discussion will focus on the practicability of such a comprehensive system. Do we already have aspects of this in place within our medical schools? Could we be doing more? Is this a cost effective means of remediating, monitoring and screening poor insight? This discussion will also help us to distill the cost and ethical issues involved in working with students with poor insight.