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Evaluating Health Equity Education in Emergency Medicine Residencies

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workshops held in 2024. Sessions 1 and 2 focused on RCC for residents and interns, with facilitator-led discussions linking improv to patient communication. First, we played a clip from “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”, a popular improvisational TV series, and then led improv scene breakout groups. Session 3 centered on learner feedback for graduate medical education leadership. It began with an overview of “Yes, and”, credible feedback, and evidence-based feedback models. Activities included a “Red Ball” exercise, where participants mimed passing objects, maintaining continuity and attentiveness to illustrate communication breakdowns, followed by improv/learner scenario breakout groups.

Impact/Effectiveness: A post-intervention survey with a 5-point Likert scale was administered for all 3 sessions. Respondents rated highly (4-5 on Likert scale) the activity structure (96.1%), length (84.3%), engagement (100%), relevance to practice (92.3%), and facilitator skill (88.5%). Thematic analysis revealed key themes: “enjoyment/engagement,” “connection to patient care,” “applying improv to feedback,” and “openness to future application.” Based on feedback, separate sessions were created for RCC and feedback; and for future implementations, learner scenarios will be removed from the feedback-focused session.

15 Implementation of a “Bias Interrupter” Into the Clinical Competency Committee

Adam McFarland, Lauren McCafferty, Jennifer Li

Introduction: A residency’s Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) is responsible for assessing the capability of medical trainees in the clinical environment. However, multiple studies have shown that bias, including identity bias such as gender or race, can influence the perception of resident competence. Business literature suggests that bias interrupters (BI) can mitigate the influence of bias on performance assessment, a practice that has been minimally utilized by medical training programs.

Educational Objectives: The objective was to implement a bias interrupter in CCC to identify and intervene when bias may contribute positively or negatively to assessment of resident clinical performance. In doing so, we also hope to identify trends in instances of bias related to identity of resident or assessor.

Curricular Design: The BI was implemented at monthly CCC meetings at the beginning of academic year 2024-2025. There are 12 residents discussed at each meeting. The BI is a rotating member of the residency leadership team who focuses on the content of the discussion rather than their assessment of residents, with the freedom to interrupt as needed. Data collected includes quantity of interruptions, identity of resident and assessor, and thematic analysis of comments warranting interruption.

Impact/Effectiveness: Preliminary data suggests that a BI adds value in CCC. Key themes of interruptions include using perceived resident personality traits or assumptions about “confidence” and motivation to dismiss deficits in clinical performance or justify low ACGME milestone ratings. The BI also identified instances where critiques of performance were solely negative, overlooking positive feedback. Additionally, the BI noted when extraneous assessments (e.g. formative simulation) or non-clinical information may have influenced CCC evaluation inappropriately. Future directions include identifying trends based on resident or BI identity characteristics and examining the frequency of milestone adjustments following BI intervention. This intervention suggests that incorporation of a BI into CCC meetings can be easily implemented by residency programs with potential for immediate impact on resident assessment.

16 Evaluating Health Equity Education in Emergency Medicine Residencies

Tamara Duclaire, Theresa Schroeder Hageman

Background: The ACGME’s 2012 CLER program aimed to improve patient care by equipping residents to address healthcare disparities. By 2018, however, many institutions had not implemented these strategies.

Objectives: This study evaluates U.S. emergency medicine residency programs for health equity training, including topics taught, teaching methods, and perceived barriers. We hypothesize limited curricula, a lecture preference, and barriers, including lack of time and funding.

Methods: In 2023, an observational survey was distributed to U.S. program directors via CORD and direct e-mail, with four participation reminders. Directors were also asked to classify their programs as community, university, or county.

Results: Of 281 directors, 35 responded (12%). Among these, 57% were university, 37% community, and 5% county programs. Overall, 91% included health equity training, covering Social Determinants of Health (97%), sexual orientation and gender identity (82%), and race/racism (76%). University programs more frequently covered sexual orientation and gender identity. Fifty-two percent reported barriers, primarily limited curriculum space (67%) and lack of faculty trained faculty (39%).

Conclusion: Most respondents include health equity training in their programs, with common topics on social determinants, gender, and race. University programs show broader topic inclusion. Limited curriculum space and lack of trained faculty are the main barriers. A low response rate may impact generalizability.

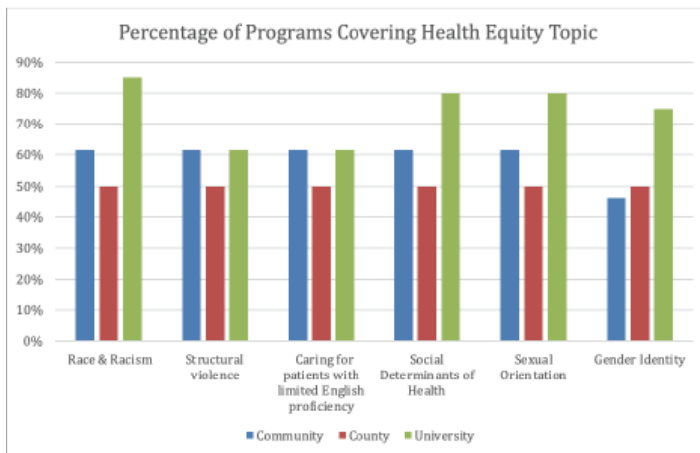


Figure 1. Percentage of programs covering health equity topic.

17 From Triage to Transformation: Medical Students Navigating Health Systems Science in the Emergency Medicine Clerkship

Mark Olaf, Keith Willner, Devon Bremer, Jennifer Spinozzi

Introduction: Health System Science (HSS) is the third pillar of medical education and addresses the underpinnings of how medical care is delivered, how populations of patients are cared for, and how to reduce the cost of care while optimizing outcomes. There is a paucity of literature regarding incorporating HSS principles and education into clinical curricula.

Educational Objectives: We aimed to develop clinically based, EM-centered, constructive learning opportunity to emphasize and teach students about Health Systems Science Principles and to assess its efficacy through a qualitative approach.

Curricular Design: Using a constructivist learning theory framework, we instituted a HSS shift into our clinical curriculum and asked students to reflect on their experiences. Students spent time in triage, with charge nurses, with care managers, EMS, and in patient transfer centers. Students were also asked to involve themselves in meaningful patient care opportunities when they became apparent. Students then submitted reflections regarding opportunities to meaningfully contribute to patient care, and the process of and challenges relating to managing ED patient flow, based on these experiences. We then performed a qualitative analysis using a constructivist learning theory framework using phenomenological methods adapted to the reflections provided by this experience.

Impact/Effectiveness: 115 students completed the exercise and all responses were analyzed. Identified themes and respective sub-themes included patient care roles and contributions including triage mechanisms, interdisciplinary

collaboration, and interpersonal patient interactions; challenges to ED flow, including staffing shortages, patient overcrowding, bed availability; and solutions and suggestions for improvement, including education and training opportunities, improved communication, and resource allocation. The development of this curricular content appears to have generated thoughtful insight into elements of health systems science in the clinical environment. Future work should focus on assessing HSS related outcomes, including medical knowledge principles, and expanding this experience to more fully integrate with HSS principles learned elsewhere in their medical school curricula.

18 Einstein's Last Words: Enhancing On-Shift Learning in the Busy Emergency Department

Dylan Krause, Jessica Parsons

Introduction: The ED is a fast-paced environment where residents must acquire and apply knowledge. While traditional teaching methods are effective, active learning during shifts can improve knowledge retention. Whiteboard teaching offers a flexible way to highlight learning points without disrupting patient care. We developed a method called "Einstein's Last Words," where learning points are recorded on a whiteboard and shared with all learners after sign-out of patient care. This efficiently disseminates and reinforces learning points, enhancing on-shift education.

Educational Objectives:

- Promote active learning and knowledge retention on-shift by collecting and reinforcing key points.
- Implement whiteboard teaching as an efficient strategy that does not distract from workflow of the ED.
- Provide opportunities for peer teaching.

Curricular Design: In December 2024, residents completed a pre-survey on their perception of on-shift teaching. Following a didactic presentation in January regarding this method, ED team members began writing learning points on whiteboards related to active cases, covering topics like differential diagnosis and management (figure 1). These notes were shared at sign-out to reinforce learning. After six months, residents completed a post-survey. This project was met initial challenges in consistent use, which was resolved by frequent reminders.

Impact/Effectiveness: Of the 41 residents who completed the pre-survey and 28 who completed the post-survey, 89% reported that whiteboard teaching enhanced on-shift learning without detracting from patient care (figure 2), and 100% recommended it for ongoing use. This low-cost, effective strategy can be readily adopted by other ED programs. Future goals include optimizing session frequency and exploring interdisciplinary expansion.