Building capability, leadership and a home for Evidence-based Medicine in Ireland

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Aim & Objectives

To establish a hub for evidence based practice in Ireland and to promote evidence based practice throughout our healthcare system.

Objectives:
• To build capability and leadership for EBP in Ireland.
• To establish a network of EBP practitioners.
• To establish a network of EBP educators.
• To agree core competencies for EBP education for undergraduate and postgraduate health professionals in Ireland.
• To create a hub for EBP in Ireland through the establishment of a network.
• To create international links and collaborations in EBP.
Methods

1) Baseline research on current EBP teaching in Ireland.
2) Training in EBP for healthcare staff.
3) Training of EBP educators.
4) Development of a competency framework.
5) Development of an EBP network.
1. Baseline research

– current EBP teaching in Ireland

• Literature review
• Interviews with international experts
• National survey with third level academic institutions.

Results:
➢ Publication of baseline research of EBP teaching in Ireland (UCC 2017) which showed positive attitudes towards EBP.
➢ The first three steps of EBP (ask, acquire, appraise) were taught more frequently in Ireland than steps four and five (apply, assess).
➢ A named EBP lead/champion was not identifiable within the majority of institutions.

2. Training in EBP for healthcare staff

3-day training provided to 50 healthcare professionals in November 2017 on ‘introduction to evidence based practice’ in collaboration with the CEBM.

100% of attendees said they would recommend this course to colleagues.

2018: Follow-up with participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Regulators, mental health, social care)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine, pharmacy, librarians, infection control, audit, dietetics, economist, pre-hospital care</td>
<td>8 (1 each)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Excellent workshop, would recommend it to everyone. Thanks to the wonderful facilitators, my new role models”.

“This has been an excellent course. I have developed skills that I hope to continue to develop and no longer fear. Thank you.”
3. Training of EBP educators

Teaching of Evidence Based Medicine, CEBM, Oxford.
4. Competency framework for EBP & Clinical effectiveness education

Stakeholder engagement on the development of a competency framework for EBP education for health professionals in Ireland.

- Educators/Universities
- Regulators
- Accreditation bodies
- Professional bodies
- Key stakeholders


June 2018: Stakeholder focus groups on the development and implementation of a competency framework.
A grant was awarded by the Naji Foundation for training and capacity building. The Naji Foundation is dedicated to promoting evidence-based healthcare and informed healthcare choices and aims to support activities and research that increase the use and understanding of evidence in healthcare.

The Department of Health in Ireland funded the research projects and the stakeholder engagement (Clinical Effectiveness Unit, National Patient Safety Office).
Conclusion

This project is addressing the current lack of standardised EBP education and training in Ireland.

There is a focus on capacity building, sustainability, identifying change agents and implementation of evidence into practice.

Integration of Patient & Public Involvement (PPI), Human factors and Implementation Science.

The network aims to build a future network of EBP advocates and will maintain strong links with the international EBP community.
Where is ‘home’ for EBP?

- Academic institution/university
- Discipline/Profession
- Government
- Health service
- Independent agency
- Regulators/Accreditation bodies
- Other?
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