Developing Online Learning To Improve Access To Infection Control Education

MICHAEL NEVILL RN DipHE, LISA STEWART, AMANDA MYERS RN MPhil, JO WADE RN PhD, PATRICIA A LOHR MD MPH
Clinical Department, bpas, Great Britain.

bpas is an independent healthcare provider employing 416 staff at 21 treatment units throughout the UK (figure 1). These staff require annual infection control education, which has previously been delivered on location by one full-time employed Infection Control Specialist Nurse.

IMPROVEMENT ISSUE

From 2006-08, the percentage of staff completing annual infection control education was 64%, 68% and 74%, respectively. The identified barriers to accessing training included the geographical spread of clinics, sporadic clinic opening hours and a high number of part-time staff. We therefore sought an innovative method to increase the uptake of infection control training, with a goal of 100% (figure 2).

PROCESS USED TO GATHER INFORMATION

Developing online learning (a new concept for bpas) was proposed by our training department. Existing online programmes were evaluated but were found to be aimed at acute hospitals, making them irrelevant to our setting. bpas required a course that had a stronger focus on standard precautions. Consequently we sought software that was affordable, accessible, easy to use and adaptable, enabling us to formulate our own bespoke course.

Existing training materials were adapted into an online format, which specifically met bpas needs. The course consists of in-depth training on standard precautions and infections associated with bpas procedures. Following completion of the online training, delegates will be required to undertake a quiz which has a specified pass rate. The quiz is made up of 12 questions based on the topics covered within the course. The quiz will allow delegates to assess their knowledge and make improvements where necessary. Course leaders will have complete control over the course content with instant access to the quiz results. This will enable them to track completion, assess scores and identify improvement trends.

EVIDENCE OF IMPROVEMENT

- Online training is now in place and staff can access infection control training from any internet source at any time.
- Delegates can complete the course at their own pace and undertake a quiz to assess their competence.
- Course leaders are able to track the completion of training, easily update the course content where necessary and monitor quiz results to target future educational strategies.
- The Infection Control Specialist Nurse no longer has to spend valuable time travelling to treatment units in order to deliver training.
- Comments received so far from delegate evaluation forms include “This course is excellent” and “Fantastic, I did not have to come in for training on my day off.”

FUTURE STEPS

We will measure future success by annually monitoring the number of staff who complete the training, assessing scores from the quiz and reviewing delegate evaluations. The course will be modified accordingly, taking into consideration any changes in legislation and feedback from course participants.

EVIDENCE OF IMPROVEMENT

- Percentage of Clinical Staff Educated in Infection Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>74</td>
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Figure 2

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT AND HOW SUCCESS WAS MEASURED

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EXAMPLES FROM THE COURSE – “INFECTION CONTROL STATUTORY TRAINING”

- Hand Decontamination
- Dealing with Blood Spillages
- Use of Spill Pak
- Waste and Linear Handling
- Infection Control Quiz - Attempt 2

Figure 1

Number of Clinical Staff Educated in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of clinical staff at bpas (c416)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100</td>
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