

Research Informed Teaching Project – Project report

1. Project title

Integration of Evidence Based Practice into the clinical/practical skills development of Health Professionals

2. Details of project team

Bernhard Haas, Deputy Head of School of Health Professions, overall project lead and lead for 'Falls and Balance' sub-project

Tina Wells, Lecturer in midwifery, 'Communication' sub-project lead

Jack Kirby, video project officer

Sarah Johnson, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy

Liz Allot, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy

Caroline Leverett, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy

Alec Rickard, Lecturer in Physiotherapy

Anne Roberts, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy

3. Summary of the aims of the project

The RiT project in the School of Health Professions aimed to create video/DVD based learning material to support clinical skills teaching of the programmes in the School. The video/DVD based material would be based on the latest research- and evidence-based clinical practice for the professions educated and trained within the School of Health Professions. The material will be a resource available to students and staff to support practical classes as well as material they can access remotely from their home, and during clinical placement.

4. Methods used

The project was devised and conducted in several distinct phases:

a) Establishing teams and themes for the video/DVD based material:

A project team was established with the few to decide on the themes and materials which would be addressed in an order of priority. A key deciding factor was that the material should be applicable to as many students and programmes within the School. The final priority list of themes was:

- Communication and Interviewing skills
- Managing Falls and Improving balance
- Sensory assessment skills
- Manual handling

b) Employment of video project officer
Job description and person specification was established and following approval and job matching interviews for this temporary, part time post were held. Jack Kirby was appointed and started work on 1.4. 08

c) Production of material, literature review and filming of evidence based skills:

Project team members worked with Jack Kirby on individual priority themes, producing material towards editing stage.

5. Findings/ outcomes/ impacts

The outcomes for the priority themes were as follows:

- **Communication and Interviewing skills**
All professions in the School contributed to this theme and several clips were produced with examples of best practice clinical interviewing and communication skills. The material is now at the final editing stage before it is made available to the programme teams and be placed on emily/tulip for use by students
- **Managing Falls and Improving balance**
A well attended 'Masterclass was held on 24.6.08. This formed the bases for this theme. Current best evidence, Cochrane reviews and other systematic reviews were presented with a view to evaluate falls and balance clinics in the South West. Appropriate interventions, such as Tai Chi, balance training and falls management were filmed. A package incorporating theoretical background and practical skills interventions was produced and this is now in its final editing stage.
- **Sensory assessment skills**
This theme focused on current best practice teaching within the podiatry team of the School. Evidence based skills were filmed and made available as re-useable learning objects on emily for students to access any time. The format of the clips was also suitable to download onto hand-held devices and is therefore accessible to students on placements.
- **Manual handling**
This theme involved work on a teaching package for manual handling. Appropriate manual handling tasks were selected and filmed using current best practice guidance. The clips are now available as re-useable learning objects and are incorporated in the manual handling teaching of all programmes in the School.

6. Continuation/ dissemination plans

Section 5 above highlights that two of the priority themes of this project have not been completed at the time of writing this report. The project experienced

considerable delays in the appointment of the video project officer and was therefore granted an extension beyond the initial project deadline. The continuation and dissemination plans are now as follows:

- **Communication and Interviewing skills**
This theme requires completion before the re-useable learning objects are made available on emily/tulip. It is anticipated that this will be achieved by Christmas 2009.
- **Managing Falls and Improving balance**
This theme requires completion of the Falls DVD. It is anticipated that this will be achieved by November 2009. There has been keen interest in this DVD outside the School and the region and it is planned that the package will be made available commercially. A second 'masterclass' on falls and balance management is in planning and participants at this masterclass will receive a copy of the DVD as learning material. The theme of balance and falls is of growing interest within the Rehabilitation Research Group in the School and we are now at an early stage of establishing a PhD project to support this theme. In addition, several undergraduate physiotherapy research projects are investigating various aspects of falls, balance and balance measurement.
- **Sensory assessment skills**
This theme has been taken to completion and podiatry students have had extensive use of the re-useable learning objects available on emily.
- **Manual handling**
The re-useable learning objects are available for teaching but will require a review in the next year. With the re-structuring of the University and faculty there are now two additional professional programmes in the School of Health Professions. These programmes have very specific handling requirements which are currently not captured in our material.

Bernhard Haas, August 2009