

IDEA

The aim of this study is to introduce video conferencing in primary care clinical rotations and investigate student confidence in technology use and competency.

NEED/RATIONALE

Geographic barriers to healthcare in eastern North Carolina has an impact on utilization of health care. The use of tele-medicine has increased access to healthcare for these populations.¹ With the COVID-19 pandemic, many medical schools incorporated virtual clinical experience. During this time, those schools were able to incorporate such technology in their clinical rotations with success.² In order to serve the patients in eastern North Carolina and better prepare Brody graduates for increased technology use in medicine, there needs to be incorporation of telemedicine in clinical rotations.

METHODS

The integration will begin with an orientation on telemedicine and electronic health records (EHR) for students. Next, the students will participate in videoconferencing with primary care practices already using tele-health in Eastern North Carolina. This clinic will take place 3 days a week for two weeks during the four-week primary care rotation. Potential limitations include the use of different EHR software, internet connection problems, and privacy concerns for patients.



EVALUATION PLAN

Students will evaluate their confidence in using the video technology, communicating with patients, and working with their preceptors through a survey. Providers will also evaluate the student's use of technology and communication during the rotation. The questions in the survey will include:

- On the following scale, rate the difficulty in using the video technology.
- Did you find the incorporating of video conferencing beneficial to your experience?
- Do you believe a telemedicine experience should be included in future rotations?

POTENTIAL IMPACT

The changing tides in medical care to incorporate technology seem to be lacking when training student doctors. Incorporating telemedicine to medical rotations is essential in training better doctors for tomorrow.

The incorporation of telemedicine in clinical rotation can:

- Increase student confidence in using technology
- Better incorporate technology into the clinical curriculum
- Help medical students prepare for residencies which may use telemedicine

REFERENCES

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