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Institute of Health Sciences Education Importance, Intentions and Behaviour: Predictors of exploring the patient's perspective

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Background

Patient-centred care requires exploration of each patient's unique perspective in addition to biomedical symptoms.

Learning communication in simulation settings does not transfer to practice unless applied immediately and supported^{1,2,3}

Theories of planned behaviour have been applied to health professionals behavioural intentions4. Dimensions of importance and confidence are known to underpin motivation for behaviour⁵.

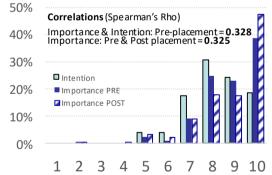
Method

A cohort study using a brief 10-point Likert-scale questionnaire prior to a nine-week clinical 3rd placement for vear medical students: Importance of exploring patients' perspectives and likelihood of doing so (intention). A postplacement questionnaire: Reported behaviour, reported observation and free text comments. Questionnaires were matched but anonymised.

Results

Questionnaires (pre- and post placement) were available for 165 students (75% response).

Importance and Intention



Observed by Clinician Once Never 17.5% 11.5% **Sometimes** Reported Behaviour Often

Factors affecting behaviour



Correlation (Spearman's Rho) Intention to Reported behaviour = 0.197

Take home points:

- Students held positive attitudes and intentions towards patient-centred communication.
- Behaviour was moderately correlated with intention.
- Time, Patient Willingness, Forgetting, Emotion & Context influenced behaviour.
- Clinicians in placements have potential to support or undermine students' exploration of the patient's perspective.

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