

Title: A 3- and 6- Month Follow-Up to a Student-Led Approach to Patient Safety in Pre-Clinical Curriculum

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Introduction: Preventable medical errors are currently the third leading cause of death in the United States following heart disease and cancer (1). In light of this, integration of formal patient safety education into undergraduate medical education has been encouraged by the World Health Organization (2). This study aimed to assess the change in patient safety knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs in students after early exposure to patient safety during pre-clinical years.

Methods: First and second-year medical students participated in the training and responses were assessed through a pre-test, immediate post-test, 3-month post-test, and 6-month post-test. The survey assessed student knowledge on aspects of patient safety, course of action in patient safety scenarios, and Likert scale questions on patient safety interest.

Results: Of the original 23 medical students, 12 and 7 students completed the 3-month and 6-month post-tests, respectively. Data showed improvement in students considering themselves to be well-versed in different aspects of patient safety in the 3-month post-test (33.3%; p-value=1.00) compared to the pre-test training (11.8%) but declined in the 6-month post-test (14.3%; p-value=1.00). The percent of students that agreed they plan to incorporate patient safety techniques into their future practice was 83% in the 3-month post-test (pre-test: 94.1%; p-value=1.00) and 100% in the 6-month post-test (p-value=1.00).

Conclusion: The improvement in students who considered themselves to be knowledgeable about patient safety and the high agreement to incorporate patient safety techniques is promising. This indicates the long-term influence that patient safety training can have in preclinical years and potentially in clerkship years.

References:

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