ONLINE RESOURCES IN A GLOBAL HEALTH CURRICULUM

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Purpose: Online educational resources play an important role in post-graduate medical education, particularly in competency areas that are challenging to teach in a classroom setting. Memorial University Faculty of Medicine is developing a new program in Care of Underserved Populations and has identified a need for such online resources to support learners. A scan of available online resources in Global Health and Care of Underserved Populations GH/CUP was conducted to identify what resources currently exist, as well as which topics could benefit from further online resources being developed.

Methods: A review of the peer-reviewed publications and grey literature was conducted to identify online educational resources that are available and accessible for medical learners with an interest in GH/CUP. Resources used in this review were obtained from the Health Sciences Library, personal communication with other programs and experts in the area, Google searches, and other program websites. These resources were mapped by features (delivery format, time required, cost and certificate of completion provided), CanMEDS-competency roles, and learning topics into a working catalogue.

Results: 74 online resources were reviewed with content related to aboriginal health, adult and child health, disaster preparedness and response, specific diseases epidemiology, global health delivery, resource-limited settings, pre-post departure training, cultural competency, advocacy, social determinants of health, partnerships, health systems and policy, principles and ethics of global health, and community engagement. The format of different online resources varied and included websites, online PowerPoints, videos, E-libraries, online certificate programs, Open Courseware and blogs. Some of the resources reviewed had a component of evaluation and proof of completion, however topics such as aboriginal health had no resources with these features.

Conclusion: This review revealed a diversity of content, formats, evaluation methods and public availability of online resources, but few previous efforts have been made to systematically catalogue the resources or link content to competencies and CanMEDS roles. A catalogue of resources with descriptors of content and CanMEDS roles addressed could provide efficient access to applicable material to address learning needs prior to in the field electives, and as a part of a competency based educational program.