2013 APTA Conference and Expo in Salt Lake City, UT
June 27, 2013, Thursday, 3:45pm – 5:15pm

http://www.apta.org/Conference/Programming/2013/Technology/

Embracing Technology, Enhancing Therapy: Clinical Education

There are a variety of options available to both student and Clinical Instructor when it comes to enhancing the clinical education experience through the use of technology. While the suggestions that are given in this session are just that, we believe that the appropriate implementation of those that fit best with your situation may indeed solve some headaches and provide for better communication and therefore better learning experiences for all.

Communication Is Key

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." (George Bernard Shaw) For many students, faculty and clinical instructors clear open communication can create a positive learning experience or the lack thereof can equally have the opposite effect. There are two commonly occurring issues surrounding communication – how much is too much, and I sent it, therefore they received it. With regard to the first scenario, we believe that in the majority of instances it is better to over communicate than it is to under-communicate. It is better to have a steady stream of communication that provides useful timely information, than to hold things back and avalanche a recipient with a volume of information that is overwhelming. Similarly, in the second scenario, as the sender of information, you must always remember that just because you sent information does not automatically mean that it was received, or even that it was understood.

1. Program to Clinic to Student

Before the clinic experience begins:
- a. Student welcome page on the clinic's website – does not need to be readily accessible to all, but the url could be sent to the Program for dissemination to the student.
- b. Include online orientation, clinic hours and other important information such as type of documentation used in the clinic.
- c. Pre-meeting/discussion between student, clinical instructor and faculty via Skype.

During the clinic experience:
- a. Onsite student development through the CPI web instrument
- b. Development and implementation of weekly planning forms
- c. Reporting regularly to the Program with regard to progress - problems or not.

After the experience is complete:
- a. Clinic evaluation of the student – CPI web, additional options

b. Use of survey monkey or Vovichi to collect additional useful information not available through CPI web

Ways to Foster Communication
    a. **Written media**: such as e-mail, snail mail – useful for communicating information that needs to be recalled at a later date – however not an immediate response method typically in a busy clinic situation.
    b. **SMS communication**: Text messaging – direct communication to a student's phone typically better (faster) response. Group messages can be sent by faculty to all students at the same time.
    c. **Telephone**: the good old telephone cannot be neglected in our communication strategy.
    d. **Social Media**: there is the opportunity to create more interactive communication through use of online tools such as Skype, Facetime, Google Hangouts and other social media outlets.

Demonstration

Conclusion
Effective clinical education is vital to the development of every student and essential for the health of any PT program. Often the clinical experience can be negatively affected by limitations in communication between key players. Through a raised attention to the pitfalls and some creative use of technology we believe that potential issues can be dealt with quickly and appropriately and the process of learning can continue effectively.

Speakers for the course:

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Postscript
Rather than provide copies of powerpoint slides, this handout serves as a summary of the information that was provided in the session in a format that is more easy to read for those who maybe missed the session. Reading a bunch of slides does not often make sense, however we hope that this version of the information provides a little clarity as to the intent of the session.

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Resources

https://www.classpager.com/
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