Pandemic Putting Training Programmes Through Their Paces:
A Novel Model to Prepare Trainees for the MRCP (UK) PACES Examination

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Authors:
Traditional Training Model

- Bedside
- Centralised Teaching
Challenges Faced

- unable to congregate in large groups for centralized teaching or simulation training
- patients had to limit unnecessary exposure to multiple healthcare staff.
Centralised Online High-Fidelity Simulation Training

- For the history taking, communication and brief clinical consult stations of the PACES exam
- Onsite video recording of the following persons (1) Candidate (2) Simulated Patient (3) Examiner (4) Coordinating Faculty
- Live Streaming using a web based programme
- Opportunity for Question and Answer
- Recording for subsequent review and asynchronous online learning
(1) The equipment that we needed
(2) The personnel that was required
(3) Creation of content that was meaningful and engaging
(4) Transition to a new platform
Personnel

Tutor: Sets the objectives for the lesson

Simulated Patient: Senior Doctor/Nurse

Candidate

Technical Support
Equipment Needed

- Timer
- Camera
- Microphones
Audience
Views
Decentralized Training
Using the LEAP mobile application

Ministry of Health Restriction:
- a group of no more than 4 persons
- 30 minutes
- Strict contact tracing measures
- cannot be examined by another within the same day.

A proprietary phone application created by the National Healthcare Group
Used to log relevant information of the patient
Small Group Tutorials
LEAP Interface
LEAP Interface
LEAP Interface

This form has three sections and serves to capture the following:
• Details of the tutorial
• Information on patient(s) contacted in the course of the bedside tutorial
• Supervisor/Tutor overseeing the bedside tutorial + PTT Tracking.

Q1. Date of Bedside Contact & Tutorial

Other Residents who attended the tutorial with you

Aside from yourself (as the submitter of this form), please indicate the Name & MCR of the other residents who joined you for this tutorial (Max 3 residents: 1 tutor)

*Important for MCR to be accurate to capture as PTT

Q2. (if any additional residents attended the tutorial with you)

1. Resident Name / MCR (e.g. ABC / M12345Z) (Optional)

Q3. (if any additional residents attended the tutorial with you)

2. Resident Name / MCR (e.g. ABC / M12345Z) (Optional)
Outcomes

BEFORE

Participants 27%

AFTER

Participants 68%
Postulated Reasons

- The ease of access to mobile devices, which allowed for online participation at the participants’ convenience.
- The LEAP application is also a simple tool to facilitate contact tracing, thus enabling trainees to examine patients at bedside without compromising on safe distancing measures in the time of the pandemic.
Conclusion

This novel model of training for the MRCP (UK) PACES examination is a safe, yet feasible and implementable alternative during the COVID-19 pandemic with potential value to continue even after the pandemic is over.

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