Introduction

Hyperlinks in Virtual Education

- Embedding hyperlinks in web-based learning is an established instructional strategy.
- Literature search revealed:
  - Only 1 study was located that presented results of trainee use of hyperlinked information.
  - No reports of hyperlink utilization when embedded in medical education.

Most Difficult Case Conference

- In 2020 medical education shifted to virtual settings driven by pandemic-related precautions.
- Our national virtual 1-hour geriatric fellows’ most difficult case conference (MDCC) continued without disruption.
- Only change was transition from audio conference calls (used for prior 10 years) to include video.
- As an existing national forum, the Advocate Aurora Health (AAH) sponsored MDCC is uniquely positioned to evaluate if access rates for educator-recommended virtual resources via hyperlinks changed pre versus mid pandemic.
- Understanding rate change during times of stress is essential for educators to knowledgeably adapt instruction.

Methods

- Geriatric Fast Facts (GFFs) are web-based 1–2 page peer-reviewed, evidence-based summaries on topics essential to older adult care [www.geriatricfastfacts.com].
  - Searchable resource for teachers/learners
  - Almost 100 GFF topics to date
  - > 46,000 unique users
  - Collaboration between AAH & Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).
- A GFF specific to each MDCC monthly case conference was distributed via email link to conference participants ranging from:
  - Home Safety Evaluations – Can I Send this Patient Home #22
  - Identifying Elder Abuse and Neglect #35
  - Tips for Leading Difficult Family Meetings #59
  - Acute Mgmt of Behavior Changes in Hospitalized Patients with Dementia #63
  - Deprescribing Medications in Elderly Patients #68

Results

- On average, MDCC attendance increased by 45%.
  - Pre pandemic: 13 sessions held May 26, 2019 to Feb 19, 2021.
  - Hyperlink access rates to MDCC targeted GFFs remained constant pre-mid pandemic accounting for increased MDCC attendance.

Data & Analysis

- GFF Google Analytics data was analyzed to determine if site traffic for the MDCC targeted GFFs differed by pre versus mid pandemic time periods.
  - Pre pandemic: averaged 6.06 visits per MDCC session.
  - Mid pandemic: averaged 10.09 visits per MDCC session.
  - When on the GFF website, individuals increased their visits to other GFF pages by 34%; average visits increased by 8.7 per MDCC session.
    - Pre pandemic: 16.54 other pages.
    - Mid pandemic: 25.19 other pages.

Conclusions

- Over project period, MDCC targeted GFF site visits increased by 44%; average increase 4.9 visits per MDCC session.
  - Pre pandemic: averaged 6.06.
  - Mid pandemic: averaged 10.09.
  - On average, MDCC targeted MDCC visits increased by 34%; average visits increased by 8.7 per MDCC session.
  - Pre pandemic: 16.54 other pages.
  - Mid pandemic: 25.19 other pages.

References


Aim

To determine if access rates changed for educator identified virtual resources referenced during a pandemic.