

Procedure Documentation and Checklists in the Palm of Your Hand

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Procedure Documentation and Checklists in the Palm of Your Hand

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Background

Timely and accurate logging of procedures is a challenge for residents, leading to under-reporting of procedures. Moreover, when procedure checklist logging is used to establish competence, inaccurate resident logs can affect a program's ability to establish procedural competency, as required by the ACGME. The most commonly reported barrier noted during resident reviews was the lack of convenient access to the procedure logging website and checklist sheets at the actual time of the procedure.

Purpose

To develop and implement a novel method of procedure documentation that would allow residents and faculty to easily log procedures and for faculty to complete procedure checklists in real-time using a portable web-based electronic platform.

Methods and Results

A portable web-based application was developed that allows residents to instantly access procedure checklists on their hand-held devices (e.g. cell phone, tablet) from any location. The device is then handed to their supervisor to complete the log and competence checklist in real-time as the procedure is being performed by the resident. Once completed, the checklist and log is automatically emailed to the supervisor who confirms competent completion of the procedure by simply clicking "reply and send", thus generating an automated email to the program coordinator for tracking in a procedure database. Additionally, with this system, each resident's successful procedure log and qualification of independent competence are readily available to all faculty via the web-site on any device. A systematic review of numbers of checklists and total procedures beginning one year prior to implementation and continuing for one year post-implementation is underway.

Conclusion

We have created a novel, easily accessible, handheld, web-based program that allows residents and supervising faculty to perform procedure logging and competency checklist completion in real-time with a goal of improved reported procedural competence.



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