

Abstract Title: Rural Healthcare Practitioners in Saskatchewan: Insights and Strategies for Enhanced Engagement and Effectiveness of CME Webinars

Purpose: Rural healthcare practitioners face multiple barriers to enhancing their practice including engagement in continuing medical education. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the reach, needs, barriers and impact of the CME webinar series on rural healthcare practitioners.

Methods: This project examines quantitative data on reach, satisfaction, self-report learning, intention to make changes, and barriers are drawn from registration and attendance reports. Analysis of post-webinar surveys on satisfaction and learning will explore barriers and how the webinars have influenced clinical practice. Ethical exemption has been obtained (BEH 5321).

Results: Preliminary analysis of 2023 -2024 data of 611 webinar registrations shows the interprofessional reach of the webinar series with registrations encompassing family physicians (55%), nurses (19%), dentists (5%), and pharmacists (3.4%). When examining location, 35% of registrants reported addresses (work or living) in Indigenous, Rural, Northern (SK or Canada). Of these, 55% are Family Physicians, 22% are nurses, and 4% are Dentists. Additional findings will be discussed

Conclusion: This evaluation project examines the reach, effectiveness, specifically how well the CME webinar series is working for rural physicians in Saskatchewan and their needs and barriers. This initial project is part of a larger mixed-method study on how webinars could be improved to better meet the needs of rural physicians and make the program more effective to ensure it helps rural physicians continue to grow in their practice and better serve their communities.

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Author Approval: Confirmation that your submission has been approved by all authors.

Area of Focus: Continuous Professional Development/ Faculty Development

Preferred Presentation Format: Oral presentation

Reference:

- Okpalauwaekwe U, Holinaty C, Smith-Windsor T, Barton JW, MacLean C. From field of dreams to back to the future? Exploring barriers to participating in continuing professional development (CPD) programs. BMC Med Educ 2024 24, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-024-05038-5>
- Moore DE Jr, Green JS, Gallis HA. Achieving desired results and improved outcomes: integrating planning and assessment throughout learning activities Contin Educ Health Prof. 2009 Winter;29(1):1-15.

Future literature to integrate:

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- Born, D., Lynn, B. M., Bluman, B., Markham, R., & Curran, V. (2024). Barriers and facilitators to continuous quality improvement engagement among rural physicians in British Columbia, Canada: A mixed-methods study. Rural and Remote Health, 24(4), 9144.