

What happens on allied health clinical education placements? An audit of current practice in pre-registration physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and nutrition and dietetics

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BACKGROUND:

Staff time is required for the organisation of clinical placements, student teaching, feedback and assessment, resulting in an impact on service delivery. Multiple clinical education models may be utilised, including peer assisted learning (PAL), simulation (SIM), and interprofessional education (IPE). There is a need to understand current education practices to ensure equity, sustainability and alignment to best practice.

AIMS:

To determine the time and models of clinical education currently in use

METHODS:

A two week prospective audit of clinical education practice was conducted from the perspectives of students and clinical educators.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FINDINGS TO ALLIED HEALTH:

There are opportunities for standardisation of clinical education practice. Educational leadership and continued investment in up skilling clinical educators in PAL, IPE and SIM models will be key to this process.

RESULTS:

207 clinical placement days were audited. Reasonable variation in education practice was identified, with clinical staff engaging in embedded supervisor activities 160 minutes/day (median) and learner facilitator activities 55 minutes/day (median).

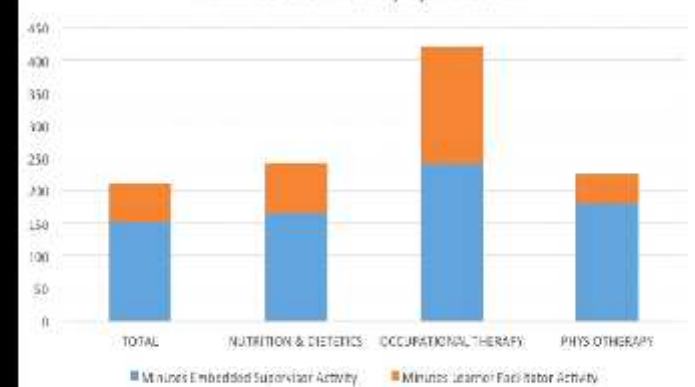
Pre-registration allied health education placements result in a 55 minute/day reduction in service delivery time per educator.

Final year physiotherapy students saw a median of five patients/day, occupational therapy students saw three patients/day and third year dietetic students two patients/day.

Education models in use by clinical placement day were PAL (34%), IPE (18%) and SIM (3%).

ALLIED HEALTH STUDENT EDUCATION PLACEMENTS RESULT IN A 55 MINUTE/DAY REDUCTION IN SERVICE DELIVERY TIME PER EDUCATOR.

Summary Distribution of Clinical Supervision v Student Administration Activity by Profession



DEFINITIONS:

Embedded Supervisor A health professional who carries a clinical case load whilst supporting a student. An embedded supervisor does not complete formal assessments, conduct structured orientation or teaching programs.

Learner Facilitator A health professional who does not carry a clinical case load for the period of time (per day or per week) dedicated to facilitated learning of a student/s.