

Paramedic – Evidence Based Medicine (P-EBP) Program

CLINICAL COURSE

Course Goal:

The goals of the Paramedic Evidence-based Practice (P-EBP) course are to provide the tricks and tools needed to efficiently search and appraise the research literature and apply to practice.

Course Overview:

Participants will develop a clinical query that is of interest to them, conduct a literature search, pick a few key articles and perform a step-wise critique. The course is composed of a series of components, each of which include a lecture and/or large group exercise, followed by a worksheet and individual work, with the aid of course facilitators. Participants will be asked to come to the course prepared with a clinical topic they could like to focus on. To complete the course, participants will compose a Critically Appraised Topic (CAT), to be submitted within two weeks of the course date.

The online P-EBP course complies with the specific competencies and sub-competencies of the NOCP 2011 guidelines for Advanced Care level education.

Objectives of each Component of the P-EBP Course:

1. Form a Question

Participants will form a concise question in the PICO (Population – Intervention – Comparison – Outcome) format. Participants should focus on clinical (therapy or diagnosis) questions.

2. Search the Literature

Participants will develop a search strategy and conduct a literature search. Participants will understand various literature sources, which include electronic databases (PubMed/Medline, the Cochrane Library, the Prehospital Evidence-based Program (PEP)) and reference list hand-searching. Participants will demonstrate the use of Boolean operators in their electronic search strategy.

3. Reading Research

Participants will analyze 2-3 selected articles, following a step-wise approach. They will make a judgment on the relevance of each article to their question.

4. Assessing Validity and Results

Participants will ask key questions to determine validity of each study: internal validity (quality of the conduct of the study) and external validity (generalizability to the participant's setting). Participants will be able to describe basic statistics (p-values, confidence intervals) and will interpret the results presented in each selected study. They will

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be making judgments about the ethics behind the studies and as well as the weight each study carries according to its methodology.

5. Synthesizing Evidence

Participants will rank each of their selected articles using an established scale, summarize the strengths and weaknesses of each study, and develop a bottom line summary of the evidence. They will discuss implications for clinical practice.