Wiki's and EBP: Linking Academia and Practice

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Wiki’s and EBP: Linking Academia and Practice

St. Cloud Hospital
St. Cloud, Minnesota

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Background:
- Senior immersion students at St Cloud State University and the College of St. Benedict collaborate with St. Cloud Hospital to complete EBP and Research projects.
- Past challenges: Communication and information sharing.
- Identification of a collaborative workspace, a Wiki, as a solution.
- PBWorks selected Wiki provider.

Wiki – website that allows the creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages. A collaborative, remotely accessed, electronic workspace. Examples of Wikis include face book, moodle and Wikipedia.

Results:
- Students completed EBP projects on falls & safe work environment.
- Students used Wiki most for storing resources (48 entries).
- Mean survey score of 4.41 (on a 6 point scale) indicated students found Wiki helpful for enhanced collaboration.
- After project completion, students had increased confidence with using Wiki.
  - Score increase from 1.50 to 2.80 (t(9)= -4.993, p=.001)
- Use Wiki again? 7 of 10 students agreed or strongly agreed.
  - Cronbach’s alpha for the scale = .880

Hospital perspective:
- Minimal meeting time required.
- Progress can be monitored remotely.
- Easy to share inaccessible hospital policies.
- Be prepared to give up some Wiki control.
- Get permission to use social media tool.
- Formulate Wiki use policy addressing HIPPA.
- Decide required Wiki functionality.

Faculty perspective:
- Wiki use shifted communication responsibilities from faculty to students.
- Wiki familiarity key before student use.
- Ensure students have site permissions.
- Orient students to the Wiki.
- Specify project expectations and Wiki use.
- Create Wiki shell.
- Determine contact for Wiki problems.
- Key to have partnership and active participation among hospital and colleges.
- Cheat sheet helps to get started.
- Wiki is very user friendly.

Research Questions:
- Are students able to complete an EBP project using a Wiki?
- Do students perceive the Wiki as helpful for enhancing collaboration on an EBP assignment?
- What is the confidence level for using Wiki technology of students before and after completing the EBP project?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages to using a Wiki to develop and EBP project?

Wiki advantages:
- Organized.
- Information in one place.
- Good place to store and edit information.
- Realtime electronic updates.
- Group communication and collaboration.
- Fewer meetings.

Wiki disadvantages:
- Not user friendly.
- Cluttered/confusing layout.
- Decreased interaction among students.
- Frequent Wiki post checks needed to stay current.
- Difficult to see edited content and source.

References:

Student Wiki Use Confidence Survey

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wiki Use</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
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Cronbach’s alpha for the scale = .880

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