Outcomes & Evaluation: Our efforts to evaluate the impact of these PVCs and Expert Panels are ongoing. We have established four PVCs and are currently reaching over 6,000 US-based health care professionals. Preliminary survey findings and member interviews show increased knowledge and ability to implement certain evidence-based tools. In order for USCi to reach sustainability, we have identified a number of areas where we must adapt both our approach and platform functionality to better engage our new, US-based audience. Challenges include: members’ access to an already overwhelming amount of information and updates from existing connections on established social networks such as Twitter and Facebook; less need for new virtual connections to colleagues; a desire for short-term engagements, such as videos and webinars, over text-based discussions; and an expectation of more personalized notifications and a specialized mobile application.

Going Forward: GHDonline is currently experimenting with video Expert Panels and Twitter chats to provide alternative engagement opportunities for this US-based audience. We are also implementing a responsive web design to improve PVC usability on mobile devices, and we are improving the underlying information architecture that powers navigation on GHDonline to more clearly deliver content to the needs of community members and highlight the benefits of joining our PVCs.

Funding: The US Communities Initiative is supported by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Abstract #: 01ITIS009

A simplified, stature-based method for dosing antiepileptic therapy in children presenting with status epilepticus

K. Dieckhaus, H. Mamillapalli, A. Werne, N.D. Stein; 1University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT/US, 2University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT/US, 3Hospital for Special Care, New Britain, CT/US

Background: Seizure disorders in children are a frequent presentation in under-resourced healthcare settings. Appropriate dosing of medication can be challenging, as dosing is based on weight, which can be difficult to obtain in emergent situations. The Seizure Tape is a flexible tape measure that provides the clinician with appropriate clinical decision guidance for seizure management including standard dosing of antiepileptic therapy for children. By measuring height only, the tape provides an immediate recommendation of weight-for-age. Dosing recommendations within 30% of the standard weight-based ranges were considered acceptable.

Findings: Compiled data from the daily shift surveys revealed that 92% of the time the medical students thought PEMSoft Portable improved their clinical understanding of the Patient/Condition on a day-to-day basis. The data from the post surveys showed that 87.5% of the subjects said they would definitely recommend PEMSoft Portable to a friend planning a global health elective. Finally, 100% of the students said they would definitely use PEMSoft Portable for the last 4 days of clinic and then using PEMSoft Portable for the first 4 days of clinic and then using PEMSoft Portable for the last 4 days of clinic. Pre-rotation, daily, mid-rotation, and post surveys were conducted to understand student perceptions regarding the utility of the application for learning and providing care. Data from the surveys was compiled into an Excel document and analyzed for trends.

Findings: Compiled data from the daily shift surveys revealed that 92% of the time the medical students thought PEMSoft Portable improved their clinical understanding of the Patient/Condition on a day-to-day basis. The data from the post surveys showed that 87.5% of the subjects said they would definitely recommend PEMSoft Portable to a friend planning a global health elective. Finally, 100% of the medical students believed that PEMSoft Portable improved their overall clinical learning experience.

Interpretation: It is clear from the data that the medical students believed that using PEMSoft Portable improved their clinical learning experience. These results suggest this may be a way to improve the clinical learning experience of students while rotating in areas where internet access is limited. While this study had a small sample size, it still demonstrates that students find a portable point of care referencing tool enhances their learning in clinical settings. Further studies should be done to examine if there are different results for different levels of medical school training, length or location of global health experience, or types of health care delivered while working abroad.

Funding: EBSCO Health (ipswich, MA) gifted the PEMSoft Portable to KidsCareEverywhere, a California nonprofit charity, who then donated PEMSoft Portable for this project.

Abstract #: 01ITIS011

Novel use of a medical database smart phone application improves clinical learning experience during a global health rotation in Tena, Ecuador

M. Dieckmann, B. Hodge; University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY/US

Background: Two seemingly conflicting trends are emerging among medical students: they are high-tech learners [1] and they consistently seek out global health electives in low resource areas [2, 3]. PEMSoft Portable is an evidence-based electronic resource that can function on the native memory of a smart phone or tablet. We hypothesized that using PEMSoft Portable would improve the perceived clinical learning experience of medical students on a global health rotation in Tena, Ecuador.

Methods: Sixteen medical students participated in running 8 rural clinics over a 2 week period in the area surrounding Tena, Ecuador, where they helped provide primary care services to over 1100 patients of all ages. Internet access was not available during clinics. Students served as their own controls by performing clinical work without access to PEMSoft Portable for the first 4 days of clinic and then using PEMSoft Portable for the last 4 days of clinic. Pre-rotation, daily, mid-rotation, and post surveys were conducted to understand student perceptions regarding the utility of the application for learning and providing care. Data from the surveys was compiled into an Excel document and analyzed for trends.

Findings: Compiled data from the daily shift surveys revealed that 92% of the time the medical students thought PEMSoft Portable improved their clinical understanding of the Patient/Condition on a day-to-day basis. The data from the post surveys showed that 87.5% of the subjects said they would definitely recommend PEMSoft Portable to a friend planning a global health elective. Finally, 100% of the medical students believed that PEMSoft Portable improved their overall clinical learning experience.

Interpretation: It is clear from the data that the medical students believed that using PEMSoft Portable improved their clinical learning experience. These results suggest this may be a way to improve the clinical learning experience of students while rotating in areas where internet access is limited. While this study had a small sample size, it still demonstrates that students find a portable point of care referencing tool enhances their learning in clinical settings. Further studies should be done to examine if there are different results for different levels of medical school training, length or location of global health experience, or types of health care delivered while working abroad.

Funding: None.

Abstract #: 01ITIS010