

Title:

Women's Health Curriculum for Internal Medicine Residents: Implementation Based on Identification of Knowledge and Comfort Level Deficits in Residents

Abstract:

While internists are charged with providing the majority of health care to women throughout their lifetime it is imperative that improvements are made in women's health internal medicine curriculum. In 1997 the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) along with the Federated Council for Internal Medicine (FCIM) published competencies in women's health. The competencies included medical knowledge and counseling skills, the addition of women's health procedures, and inclusion of women's health content on the American College of Physicians (ACP) in-training exam (ITE) and the ABIM Board exam. Several studies within the past 5 years suggest that gaps still exist for knowledge and comfort level in women's health for both current internal medicine residents and practicing internal medicine physicians. Internal Medicine residents at Creighton University Medical Center currently have their continuity clinics within the VA hospital with less than 15% of patient panels comprising of women. Given that residents in this program have limited clinical exposure to women's health on an ongoing basis it is reasonable to establish a more formal women's health curriculum to address areas of concern so that more comprehensive health care can be provided. The purpose of this research is to assess internal medicine resident knowledge and comfort with regard to medical practices specific to women or areas of medicine with important gender differences and create a dynamic curriculum to include: lecture-based, web-based, and small group problem-based learning.

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