

UC Irvine

Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health

Title

Upstream from the Emergency Department: An Integrative Case for First-Year Medical Students

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/29d447k8>

Journal

Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health, 17(4.1)

ISSN

1936-900X

Authors

Caretta-Weyer, Holly
Bagwell, Stephen
Westergaard, Mary
et al.

Publication Date

2016

Copyright Information

Copyright 2016 by the author(s). This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Columbus, OH; University of Washington, Seattle, WA; Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Background: Influences on applicant rank lists have been well studied; however, the advent of the new Doximity ranking system may have introduced new considerations. Studies have shown that applicants base their decisions on a combination of personal factors including geographic location and quality of life, as well as program-specific factors including expected clinical experience, curriculum quality, interview day, experience with residents and faculty, and reputation of program. This process leads to an important decision that will impact the applicant's future practice and location.

Objectives: This study investigates the impact of the Doximity rankings on the rank list choices made by residency applicants in Emergency Medicine.

Methods: An 11-item survey was sent by email to all students who applied to Emergency Medicine residency programs at four different institutions representing diverse geographical regions (1641 applicants). Students were asked questions about their perception of Doximity rankings and how it may have impacted their rank list decisions. Respondents were also asked what factors affected their choice of programs.

Results: This study found that a majority of medical students applying to residency in Emergency Medicine were aware of the Doximity rankings prior to submitting rank lists (67%, 531/793). One-quarter of these applicants changed the number of programs and ranks of those programs when completing their rank list based on the Doximity rankings (26%). Though the absolute number of programs added/dropped, or increased/decreased on the rankings was small, the fact that there is a change in some students' behavior demonstrates that the EM Doximity rankings may impact applicant decision-making in ranking residency programs. The most common reasons for choosing a residency program were geographic location (90%), interview experience (82%), and personal experience with residents (77%).

Conclusions: Doximity provides a rank list of Emergency Medicine residency programs that has some impact on applicant behavior. Future efforts to identify, collect, and disseminate useful meaningful data in an easily navigable and internet-searchable form could provide a set of metrics to evaluate and characterize programs in a transparent way independent of a ranking system.

3 Upstream from the Emergency Department: An Integrative Case for First-Year Medical Students

Caretta-Weyer H, Bagwell S, Westergaard M, Hess J, Seibert C /University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI

Background: Numerous upstream factors help determine a patient's health. These determinants of health often influence patients' presentations to the emergency department (ED), making it vitally important to understand them when caring for these patients. Additionally, because the ED provides a unique window into the health of a robust cross-section of the community, it is an ideal setting to observe a broad sample of factors that contribute to that community's well-being. There is no documentation in the current literature of medical schools providing formal training regarding these upstream determinants of health to first-year medical students within the ED setting.

Educational Objectives:

1. Identify the determinants of health that may be affecting the well-being of a patient
2. Describe how community organizations and health care systems collaborate through policies and programs to modify upstream factors and improve health outcomes of individuals and populations
3. Explore physicians' roles in modifying determinants of health

Curricular Design: In order to identify the upstream determinants of health that may have contributed to a patient's presentation to the ED, all first-year medical students rotated in pairs through the ED for two hours at a time during the first month of medical school. These students conducted interviews with ED patients regarding their home life, diet, literacy, exercise, substance use, exercise, interpersonal violence, and support systems. These interviews served as a foundation for structured reflections and group discussion prior to the students meeting with community agencies who address these upstream factors. Finally, the students debriefed in small groups regarding their experiences.

Impact/Effectiveness: A total of 175 first-year medical students participated in the curriculum. Students were asked to rate the value of their experience on a validated 5-point Likert scale survey. The students' response was overwhelmingly positive with an average score of 4.72. They were also asked to rate their understanding of the intersection between public health and clinical medicine and responded with an average score of 4.13. We plan to explore how this curriculum has changed students' approach to these determinants through an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) in the future.

4 What's Your Biggest Worry?: A Practical Exercise to Encourage Patient-Centered Care

Background: As the harms of medical overuse are increasingly recognized, there is a growing movement to focus on patient-centered care that is effective, affordable, needed and wanted. Effective patient-centered communication is the most fundamental component of patient-centered care. Although challenging in the fast-paced environment