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An Innovative Approach to Teaching Residents about Charting and Billing

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acute angle-closure glaucoma. Differences in intraocular pressure measurements may result from true variability (diurnal variation, disease progression) or from inaccurate testing (uncalibrated device, user error). Our goal is to help practitioners minimize user error by presenting a relatively life-like eye model that learners may practice various parts of an ocular exam, including measuring intraocular pressure, foreign body removal, and basic slit lamp exam skills.

Objective: Our objective is to provide learners with an eye model that can be used to practice measuring intraocular pressure, ocular foreign body removal, and basic slit lamp exam skills.

Curricular Design: An educational conference was held for emergency medicine residents on eye exam skills. Through the use of our model, we learned that residents were making common mistakes including incorrect positioning when using the Tono-Pen and inappropriate patient globe compression. Additionally, many residents lacked experience or confidence with ocular foreign body removal with a small-gauge needle and slit lamp exam skills. We designed this simple eye model at our institution using inexpensive materials such as a Styrofoam head, a hard-boiled egg, and a contact lens to help providers learn how to use a Tono-Pen correctly as well as practice with foreign body removal and slit lamp exam techniques.

Impact/Effectiveness: New practitioners often feel uncomfortable with performing ocular exams on real-life patients. On reflection, we believe our eye model helped our residents develop confidence and effective ocular exam skills. Our innovation can easily be applied at other institutions to help others develop these skills on an eye model before practicing on actual patients.



Image 1.

10 An Innovative Approach to Teaching Residents about Charting and Billing

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Background: It is incumbent on residency programs to teach residents about the administrative aspects of Emergency Medicine. This includes information on charting and billing. Like most Emergency Medicine residency programs, our program had a well-established curriculum to teach charting. However, what we were lacking was a way to teach residents how their charting relates to billing in a way that was meaningful to them.

Learning Objective: The objective of this innovation is to identify gaps in knowledge regarding documentation, billing and reimbursement and to determine if said gaps can be filled with innovative “invoice education”

Curricular Design: After every shift, as I am cosigning the resident’s charts, I will keep track of what each patient’s charge should be based on the chief complaint, presentation, work-up and ED course. I will also record detailed feedback to the resident regarding how any of their charting could result in a “down code” of the charge. These will be recorded on a form that we are calling an “invoice”. The residents will then be given this “invoice” detailing “How much money they could have made” based on the patients seen with me during the shift, as well as “How much money they would have lost” based on their charting mistakes. This puts the feedback into a perspective that is meaningful to the residents – MONEY.

Impact/Effectiveness: After the innovation had been implemented for approximately 6 months, the residents were surveyed regarding whether they felt the innovation helped them understand, charting, billing and reimbursement better. 27 of 34 residents answered the survey. 100% of residents answering the survey felt either very satisfied or satisfied that the innovation helped them understand aspects of good charting practices and how charting relates to billing. 96% of residents answering the survey felt either very satisfied or satisfied that the innovation helped them understand principles of reimbursement. We are currently reviewing the “invoices” to determine if certain types of charting errors were able to be decreased through this simple intervention.

