

Importance of Evaluation in a Clinical Teaching

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Abstract: Evaluation is a vital process in delivering a teaching activity [1], [2]. It is an essential component of a good, comprehensive teaching program in Clinical Medicine [2]. The concept of evaluation and the key steps, involving in a systematic process of evaluation in the Clinical Education are discussed.

Keywords: Clinical Teaching, Evaluation Process, Different Approaches

I. SETTING AN EVALUATION PROCESS IN A CLINICAL TEACHING

According to the Good Medical Practice Guidance of the UK General Medical Council all registered practitioners are encouraged to be actively involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate teachings. A clinical teaching also known as bedside teaching is a unique learning strategy in Medicine. It can effectively help learners to improve clinical skills, judgement, communication and professionalism [1]. It can also integrate theoretical knowledge, practical and communication competencies of learners [1]. In order to maintain and promote the academic quality of a clinical teaching, evaluation is essential. *K Welsh* highlighted the important steps in evaluating a clinical teaching activity and these steps include methods, actions, reports, changes and start again [2].

In addition the process of evaluation should be implemented systematically when a teaching program is started to deliver. *Richard Hays* and colleagues suggested that designing, implementing, delivering a teaching program and its evaluation are closely integrated in reality though these seemed to be remained as separate issues [3]. To develop a systematic evaluation process in a clinical teaching activity, *Kirkpatrick's evaluation cycle* should be applied appropriately. In this evaluation cycle, it is clearly mentioned that a process of evaluation should be started together with teaching. More importantly, collecting feedbacks, analyzing feedbacks and making modifications based on the analysis must be conducted in parallel with the clinical teaching activity [4].

II. DELIVERING AN EVALUATION PROCESS IN A CLINICAL TEACHING

M Wilkes and *J Bligh* pointed out four 'key' levels of evaluation in a teaching program and these should also be implemented in evaluating clinical teachings [5]. In *Wikes & Bligh evaluation process* teachers are encouraged to observe the reaction of students attending the teaching and assess learning benefits that students can obtain. And then teachers should check whether students absorb these benefits well and review how these benefits help students to fulfill their learning objectives [5].

There are many different approaches in a process of evaluation. Among these approaches, the objectives orientated, program orientated, institutional orientated, learner orientated and stakeholder orientated evaluations are commonly applicable [6]. In a clinical teaching activity it can be generally clarified that a learner orientated evaluation is more useful than any other evaluation method. Because bedside teaching is normally a small group teaching that is focused on need of an individual learner and it provides direct contact between the clinical teacher and students [7]. For instance, in a clinical teaching program at our hospital learner orientated paper-based evaluation is set up and implemented. Through this process of evaluation, it is easily accessible to review the students' feedbacks, assess their learning benefits and make improvements in the teaching activity, depending on their evaluations. The other important step in an evaluating process of a clinical teaching is to take action or do changes in-timely, relying on learners' feedbacks. *David Wall* pointed out that the results of feedback must be delivered back to the teaching

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program and actions then must be taken appropriately to establish a comprehensive evaluating process of a teaching program [8].

III. SAFEGUARDING THE QUALITY OF A CLINICAL TEACHING

In summary, evaluation in a clinical teaching program is vital. It is a tool to measure systematically the standards of teaching and overall benefits for the students in line with their learning objectives. Evaluation effectively helps us to train and teach learners to become competent medical professionals for future healthcare services.

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