

ER- WCPT Education conference abstract July 2020

Title and author:

Student-generated video creation for the assessment of communication skills

Stapleton, Claire

The problem statement:

The pressures placed on Practice Educators during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of many practice-based placements for pre-registration physiotherapy students and the need to devise alternative means of meeting the intended learning outcomes.

Aims and objectives:

A number of online assessments were designed; the aim of one, was to provide the students with the opportunity to critically reflect and compare aspects of effective communication and interactions with patients.

Method:

Students were required to create a video of themselves providing guidance for a simulated patient on one aspect of their physiotherapy management plan. The task was to create two videos (2-5 minutes duration) to highlight any differing communication strategies that would be employed to effectively convey the same aspect of the management plan for 1) an anxious 8 year old girl and 2) an 80 year old male who is hard of hearing.

Outcomes:

The explicit intended benefit of the task was to induce critical thinking and consideration of communication strategies for patients with differing characteristics. However, the implicit intended benefits of video creation are related to digital literacy. A key aspect of the Digital Literacy Capability Framework (2018) is promoting a positive attitude towards change, technology and innovation. Evaluation of the task demonstrated a shift in how comfortable students felt when working with new technology; prior to the task 26% reported feeling 'uncomfortable' compared to 8.6% after the task. In addition, after the task students reported higher levels of confidence in all technical aspects of video creation as well as communication as a health professional.

Reflection:

The assessment was successful in promoting skills in both communication and digital literacy. The ability to communicate effectively using digital media is increasingly critical for the current generation of healthcare students. The processes involved in video creation (preparing a script, consideration of body language, voice tone, pitch and pace, facial expression, language used) and review/editing of material, involves several stages of repetition and reflection that met the aims of the task.