

'It's the vibe': quantifying 'quality' in the general practice clinical learning environment

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Background

The consensus-based General Practice Clinical Learning Environment (GPCLE) framework describes six key elements of high-quality learning environments in general practice. Research is needed to translate the GPCLE framework concepts into quantifiable indicators to enable the practical application of the GPCLE as a quality improvement tool supporting best practice.

Aim

To translate the GPCLE framework into quantifiable indicators that can be practically applied to benchmark, monitor and guide quality improvement in the clinical learning environment.

Methods

An expert panel of stakeholders involved in GP training were invited to participate in a Delphi-style process comprising two phases: (1) a pre-workshop activity, facilitated via email, asking respondents to identify and describe key indicators, behaviours, and actions demonstrating various levels of quality in relation to one of six GPCLE elements; (2) a face-to-face, one-day workshop using brainstorming, reflection, review, and group discussion to reach consensus about valid, objective indicators.

Findings

A total of 16 stakeholders participated in both phases, including GPs, GP supervisors, GP registrars, practice managers, and medical educators. Pre-workshop data were analysed in NVivo, categorised by GPCLE elements across a quality continuum: *foundational* (at a level acceptable for training accreditation), *commendable* (above accreditation standard), *exemplary* (above commendable standard), and descriptions of quality indicators were used to inform workshop activities. The workshop validated consensus-driven quality indicators for each GPCLE element, across a performance continuum, organised into items.

Implications

Use of a consensus-based Delphi-style process involving expert stakeholders from general practice successfully translated the conceptual GPCLE framework into a useful benchmarking and planning tool to show foundational to exemplary practice, based on quantifiable indicators. Future research aims to promote engagement and feasible implementation of this tool for quality improvement in general practice.

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