



Electronic Information Resources: Impact on Physicians and Healthcare Professionals using CME Curricula

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Introduction

The authors aim to show the impact of specific training on electronic resources on Continuous Medical Education (CME) programs in various Local Healthcare Organizations in the Veneto Region (Aziende Ospedaliere della Regione Veneto – ULSS). Experiences undertaken with physicians and health care professionals attending courses with and without accreditation (Graphic 1 – 2) show how profitable the acquisition of information skills in clinical curricula could be.

Objective

To evaluate the collaboration between reference librarians, the Local Healthcare Organizations planners and staff, and the recognized CME credit providers on the outcome of the courses.

Methods

The training referred to six resources (Table I). The structures of each course was developed to include an introduction to the resource, demonstration of search strategies, exercises, feedback discussion and a final evaluation of the course by administration of an evaluation questionnaire (Graphic 3 – 4). The total number of credits assigned in Padua over two years experiences is 42.200.

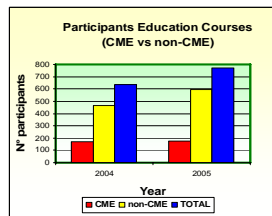
Courses

Table 1

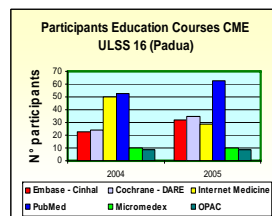
Course Name	Target	Credits CME *
INTERNET and MEDICINE	For Physicians or nurses	10
PUBMED	For Physicians or nurses	11
CINAHL and GUIDELINES	For nurses	6
COCHRANE DATABASES	For Physicians or nurses	7
MICROMEDEX - TOXNET	For Physicians	7
OPAC and E-JOURNALS	For Physicians or nurses	6

* Credits for each course

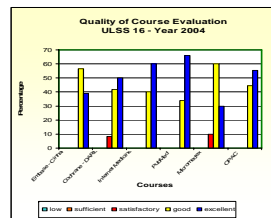
Graphic 1



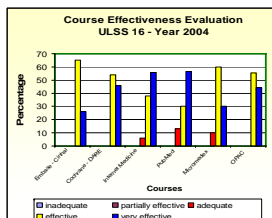
Graphic 2



Graphic 3



Graphic 4



Results

- A remarkable degree of autonomy in the use of online medical resources and biomedical databases was achieved.
- In Italy CME activities are required by law and recognised credits become part of professional training curricula.



Continuous Medical Education
Ministry of Health - Italy

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/ecm/ecm.jsp>

Conclusions

- The introduction of a recognised accreditation system favoured the integration of professional training in information resources between the Local Healthcare Organizations and professional librarians and led to a great increase in the quality of the courses as compared to the previous non-accredited voluntary courses.
- The inclusion of the course in the curricula of the health profession also adds to their perceived value.
- The accredited courses are run on a much stricter schedule, requires variation of teaching procedures, and the information skills acquired are immediately tested by the attendees, which accounts for the very satisfactory level in their course evaluation (Graphic 3 – 4).