

National CPD Program and Accreditation System for State of Qatar– Unified framework for all

Background

Being mandated by the law to regulate the practice of healthcare practitioners (HCPs) to ensure provision of best quality patient care in Qatar, Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) developed unified CPD program and accreditation system for all licensed HCPs based on best evidence and standards.

Description

The National CPD Program and Accreditation System for the State of Qatar are innovative in different aspects. Their development was a result of **unique collaboration** with Royal College Canada International (RCCI) that, though being remotely-based, was intensive and interactive leading to flawless knowledge transfer, capacity building and development of valuable scholarly work. The system was based on **best scientific evidence and globally accepted standards**, aligning with concept of Health professions education without borders ensured quality of CPD provision and enabled obtaining **international recognition** of the system within few months of its implementation **reflecting a hallmark of cultural diversity**. **Extensive stakeholder engagement** in all aspects of system development and implementation was an extremely successful approach that allowed for practicality and smooth change management. The system itself was unique in its formation. It **embraced a single/unified CPD framework** for all HCPs and promoted concepts like **interprofessional and team-based education** and highlighted the **importance of diversity of educational resources and approaches** (e.g. group-learning, self-directed and assessment activities). **Adopting a hybrid accreditation system (Provider & activity-based)** supporting unified framework under a single regulatory authority was most unique feature that allowed providing plenty of educational opportunities to HCPs .

Results

Though formal evaluation of the system is completed, the following figures (recorded between March 7 and December 7 2016) provide an insight of its impact and innovation:

1. QCHP and its 12 accredited provider organizations accredited 707 CPD activities (44% of which were interprofessional).
2. Licensed HCPs (27,468 HCP) recorded in their e-portfolio 333,755 CPD activity (85,993 group learning, 240,611 self-directed learning and 7150 assessment CPD activities). Percentage compliance of HCPs with QCHP credit requirements averaged 86.3%.
3. Mutual recognition agreements with four international organizations (American Medical Association, American Association for Family Physicians, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) were signed since the system launch.
4. One journal article, eight posters and many presentations were published and presented in medical education research journals and events since the system launch.

Discussion:

National CPD program for the State of Qatar was innovative in embracing unified framework for all HCPs which allowed for a closely regulated and effective HCPs' participation in the program and promoted the concept of interprofessional education.

The adoption of a hybrid accreditation system (**Provider & activity-based**) and diverse CPD framework yielded results that indicate success, feasibility, and accountability to provide adequate and diverse educational opportunities for all HCPs.

Successful international recognition of the National CPD program and accreditation system, within a short timeframe, reflects their conformity with quality principles and globally accepted standards **reflecting culturally diverse system**.

The outstanding collaboration with RCCI and extensive stakeholder engagement in development and implementation of this unique system resulted in structured national capacity building and contribution to valuable scholarly work.

Published journal article in JCEPH

http://journals.lww.com/jcehp/Abstract/2016/03631/Evolving_Alignment_in_International_Continuing.7.aspx

Mutual recognition of CPD Accreditation system for State of Qatar

<http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Pages/Announcements.aspx?alD=yfwXks99d3XI+Rbzzr3ZHw==>

CPD Accreditation System and Framework for State of Qatar Health System

<http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Pages/Accreditation.aspx>