

REDESIGNING PRE-REGISTRATION (FOUNDATION) TRAINING IN A COVID WORLD

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Background

HEE South runs pre-registration pharmacist (PRP) training across Thames Valley, Wessex and the South West; our regional events moved online in 2020 due to the pandemic. Feedback from the 2020/21 cohort induction event in August 2020 suggested that trainees felt sessions were not interactive enough, despite local host Trusts booking rooms where small groups could interact in a socially distanced manner locally, whilst taking part in the regional online event. Trainers felt that group engagement was suboptimal, with trainees perhaps not feeling able to contribute to whole group discussions and losing interest.

Objectives

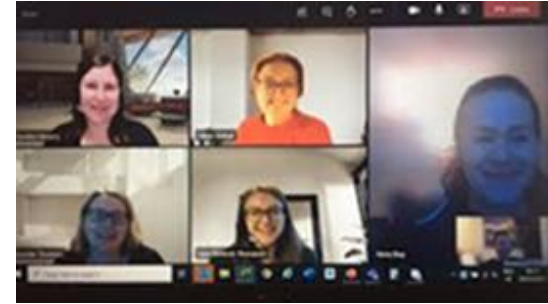
- To redesign the delivery of regional courses for 2021 to enhance remote learner experience.

Methods

A quality improvement “Plan Do Study Act” model was applied when planning the February 2021 event, with increased group activities and breakout groups planned to replicate the in-person experience; sessions started with ice-breakers (e.g. virtual scavenger hunt) to allow interaction. Key stakeholders (lead education and training pharmacist and chief pharmacists) at PRP trusts were engaged to ensure IT support was available. A further feedback survey was sent to participants.

Changes we made to ↑interactivity

- Shorter sessions, <45min
- Icebreakers and ‘energiser’ activities – stand up and move!
- Breakout groups – 4 trainees instead of 60
- Trainees using own device with camera *on*
 - Using online gaming/wordclouds to encourage interaction without embarrassment e.g. Menti, Kahoot
 - Use of chat box



Results

	August 2020	Feb 2021
<i>Survey question</i>	% strongly agree or agree	
It was easy to log in	100%	95%
Online delivery worked well	81%	94%
I logged in on my own device	43%	100%
Response rate	73%	63%

Discussion and conclusions

Use of own devices, ice-breakers and small group work designed into the second event led to increased involvement, and increased participant satisfaction. The increase in trainees logging in on their own devices rather than in Trust based groups could be the reason for the small increase in difficulties in logging on. Regional training may retain many of these online features even as pandemic restrictions lift; these events may be as rewarding as face-to-face teaching with less travel for trainees and facilitators.