27 - 29 November 2026 Vienna , Austria

Developing a Collegiate Networking Platform to Support Medical Students Transitioning to Clinical Training: A Quality Improvement Project

Ejlal Ahmed , Simon Whitebridge

Royal College of surgeons in Ireland, RCSI, Bahrain

Abstract

Transitioning to clinical years is a commonly reported challenge in undergraduate medical education. Medical students and Clinical Lecturers (CLs) at hospital sites often experience difficulties communicating and accessing information related to clinical rotations, negatively affecting students' clinical learning experiences. This project aimed to introduce an online Collegiate Networking Platform (CNP) to facilitate communication between students and hospital staff and support information dissemination among RCSI medical students and their assigned CLs. The platform is accessible across multiple electronic devices. The Senior and Swailes implementation model and the CIPP evaluation framework were utilised. Two surveys were conducted: the first identified students' concerns regarding transition to clinical sites and informed development of the CNP, while the second assessed student perceptions following implementation and evaluated the platform's impact on learning experiences. The CNP, an internal web-based application, was developed to provide students with information about CLs, clinical sites, and rotations before transitioning to clinical programmes. Twenty CLs from three hospitals and 161 students were invited to enrol and create individual profile pages. The CNP launched on schedule, with 15 CLs and 49 students successfully registering. Following launch, platform usage data were extracted. Preliminary findings indicated improved student perceptions of clinical rotations when using the CNP, particularly when their CLs were enrolled, compared with rotations where CLs were not enrolled. All participants agreed that a networking platform would benefit students' clinical learning experience. Future implementation should be expanded and focus on improving CL enrolment, providing a foundation for enhanced communication and further platform development.

Keywords: Clinical Lecturers, Clinical Sites, Collegiate Networking Platform, Communication, Student Transition.