E-learning System for CME in Occupational Medicine

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Aim. The present poster describes the development of a system (http://fad.cbim.it) aimed at both contributing to healthcare personnel education and promoting e-learning (EL) as a way for CME at national level.

Methods. The development was focused on two major aspects: 1) The usefulness of both contents and educational model. For each of the topics (professional asthma, pneumonia caused by allergens, noise, use of video terminals, mechanical vibrations, manual motion of things, industrial solvents, ergonomics, professional stress and risk management strategies), problem solving operational strategies are provided. In addition, a specific course for nurses has been developed. Multi-level graphical representations of guideline-based decision processes and case study tests constitute the core elements to support competence acquisition; 2) The availability of tools to analyze feedbacks and plan eventual remedial activities improving user’s attitude. In addition to the functionalities embedded in the Moodle platform, some further functions have been programmed in order to: a) automatically compare the results of the tests performed before and after having attended the course to check the educational effectiveness; b) obtain statistics on the number of attempts necessary to pass the tests and the case study tests; c) obtain the wrong answer rates for each question, to identify both eventual misleading questions and the need of more detailed information in the course modules; d) record and analyze tutor-learner messages to identify weaknesses and strengths of the EL system.

Results. The system is fully available since 2008. At present only 32 users (physicians and nurses) have registered and started using it, and hence evaluation of the above mentioned dimensions is not possible yet, even if the few satisfaction questionnaires show a positive “impression”.

Conclusions. Despite of the efforts in order to make the system useful, usable and improvable according to the user’s feedbacks, the small number of initial users denotes a certain indifference, or maybe reluctance, to EL for CME. Intensive promotion could be a next step to make people use it and get hints about what to do to make EL take off.

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