

# Meeting learning needs at GP CPD events: The value of a pre-course survey

Dr Helen O'Reilly

GP and GP Tutor, Health Education Wessex

## Aim

Evidence shows that GPs feel that GP CPD education events are not always relevant to their personal practice in primary care<sup>1</sup>. However, such events are popular. My aim was to attempt to communicate the specific learning needs of the attendees to the speakers prior to the event, to help them plan a learning experience which would be relevant to the audience.

## Development

I sent an online survey to GP attendees the week before a GP Education event asking about their confidence and specific learning needs in each planned topic. A live results link was sent to the speakers, who were therefore able to modify their presentations in advance if they wished. Feedback surveys were sent to both speakers and attendees after the event.

## Examples of Results:

How much understanding do you feel you already have about each of the topics?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

	Little understanding: I want to discuss basics	Some understanding: I want to discuss standard conditions in general practice	Good understanding: I want to discuss complexity in general practice	Excellent understanding: I want to discuss high level complexity	I am not attending this session	Total
Breast disease	7.14% 2	57.14% 16	25.00% 7	0.00% 0	10.71% 3	28
Resilience	23.08% 6	38.46% 10	23.08% 6	3.85% 1	11.54% 3	26
Foot and Ankle Orthopaedics	20.69% 6	65.52% 19	13.79% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	29
Podiatry	28.57% 8	60.71% 17	10.71% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
New Hampshire CAMHS service	13.79% 4	68.97% 20	13.79% 4	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	29
HIV Diagnosis	20.69% 6	79.31% 23	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	29
Cardiology - Heart Failure, Pacemakers and Rhythm Problems	10.00% 3	53.33% 16	33.33% 10	3.33% 1	0.00% 0	30
Mental Health Risk Assessment	10.00% 3	50.00% 15	40.00% 12	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30

What specifically would you like to take away from the course about each topic?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 12

Answer Choices	Responses
Breast Disease	83.33% 15
<p>Responses (15)   Text Analysis   My Categories (0)</p> <p>Categorize as...   Filter by Category   Search responses</p> <p>Showing 15 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>management mastalgia 5/9/2016 7:10 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>Treatments for cancer 5/9/2016 3:02 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>how to deal with patients with recurrent cysts/benign lumps 5/9/2016 1:53 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>Benign reassurance without referral 5/9/2016 12:04 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>who to refer, shared care/GP responsibilities after breast cancer diagnosis, what support do they get? 5/6/2016 9:28 AM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>Overview of how we are doing at improving survival rates and what is coming in the future. 5/5/2016 9:19 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> <li>How to distinguish 2ww ref from routine which also get sent on 2ww form. 5/5/2016 8:44 PM   View respondent's answers   Categorize as...</li> </ul>	

## Outcome

The attendee response rate was over 70%. In their feedback, audience members felt it helpful to their learning to have considered (and therefore focussed their minds on) their learning needs prior to the event and that the survey improved relevance of the course to their practice. Speakers felt that the process had helped them better understand the expectations of the audience and the majority felt that their presentations were more relevant

## Impact

Asking attendees to consider their personal learning needs prior to a GP CPD event through the use of an online survey helps speakers to better understand the personal practice of their primary care audience and can help them to improve the relevance of their presentations. In this way a CPD event can better meet the learning needs of the GPs attending, and therefore improve the development of their personal practice.

Contact details:

[Helen.OReilly@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Helen.OReilly@winchester.ac.uk)

"GP Education: A Guide for Organisers: How to set up a Pre-Course Questionnaire" free PDF

Available at :

[www.wgpnet.co.uk/wessexGPTutors](http://www.wgpnet.co.uk/wessexGPTutors)

Guide QR: Poster QR:

