The Impact of an Online Course in Infection Control on Health Providers’ Competency

Background: Hospital-acquired infection, international travel and bacterial resistance are among the factors contributing to a heightened awareness of the importance of infection prevention and control in today’s health care environment.

Purpose: A research project was conducted to develop an online course in infection control for health providers and study the impact on providers’ competency. The study was funded by The Change Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Results: Survey results from 76 learners indicated they made significant gains in competency and improved their workplace practice. Providers who worked in supportive organizations reported a higher incidence of knowledge transfer activities. Two course design features, video and interactive quizzes and games, enhanced the learning experience.

Conclusion: The online course was an effective and satisfactory way to improve providers’ infection control skills. A demonstration of the course and best practice recommendations for organizational integration and uptake based will be presented.