

Development of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provision Framework for Sri Lankan Grade Medical Officers

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Abstract

Introduction: CPD activities are provided by various organizations in Sri Lanka and a wide variation is observed. However, it is crucial to have a common CPD framework to be utilized by every CPD organizing body.

Objective: The aim of this study is to develop a CPD provision framework and CPD provision model for Sri Lankan grade medical officers.

Methodology: A conceptual model was constructed to enable the effective CPD provision to Grade Medical Officers (GMOs) in Sri Lanka, using baseline information on lifelong learning and CPD practices of GMOs in the Central Province and views from island wide CPD leads. Subsequently, a 15 item CPD provision - framework and the conceptual model was developed. As a next step, feasibility to implement the proposed framework was assessed among the selected CPD leads through a semi- structured interview. Finally, the modified CPD provision framework and the CPD provision model for Sri Lanka were finalized.

Results: In the CPD provision model, Physicians, CPD providers and Accreditation bodies were identified as key responsible entities while identification of learning needs, proper planning, mechanism for action and evaluation were identified as main steps for effective CPD provision. CPD leads were unanimous on the need for structured CPD programs. Eight of 15 items in the proposed CPD provision framework were accepted by all the interviewed CPD leads.

Conclusions: Since the draft version of the CPD provision framework received high level of acceptance, the Ministry of Health should take the lead in developing it further as well as take measures to regularize CPD among doctors.

Key Words: CPD, CME, CPD Models, CPD Programmes

Introduction

In Sri Lanka, CPD activities are provided by various organizing bodies and a wide variation is seen among the CPD programmes conducted by them. However, it is essential to have a commonality between CPD programmes offered in a given country and it should be paralleled to the international CPD systems. Such a move would enable the CPD programmes to be recognized by other responsible bodies overseas. Thus, it is crucial to have a common CPD structure for every CPD organizing body.

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