Building a Regional Center of Excellence for Optimizing Clinical Education: An Innovative Telehealth Education Model (The BRITE Study)

Key stakeholder perceptions and attitudes of telehealth clinical experiences for Maryland PA students

PURPOSE
- Urgent need to innovate and develop new models of clinical education
- To address these challenges, the PA profession may need to consider implementing creative strategies, including telehealth clinical experiences

METHODOLOGY
- This multi-pronged study consists of three phases to be completed over three years.
- The first phase consisted of a mixed-methods needs assessment, learning about experiences, attitudes, and recommendations of telehealth from key stakeholders across the state of Maryland.
- The research team distributed an online survey and conducted semi-structured individual interviews with regional clinical coordinators, clinical preceptors, PA faculty and PA students associated with the four Maryland PA programs to identify key characteristics of telehealth clinical experiences.

KEY FINDINGS

- 53% of learners agree that PA programs should increase telehealth clinical experiences within their educational programs.
- 63% of learners agree with the formal integration of a mandated telehealth curriculum.
- 29% of non-learners did not have access to telehealth experiences prior to COVID-19.
- 38% of learners agree that PA programs should increase telehealth clinical experiences within their educational programs.
- 53% of non-learners did not have access to telehealth experiences prior to COVID-19.

Telehealth offers a unique opportunity to enhance clinical education and transform healthcare practice.

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