

Introduction

- Paramedic scope of acute practice continues to grow
- As such, there is a need for Continuing Medical Education (CME) to ensure new knowledge and skills are taught, in addition to the maintenance of current knowledge and skills
- It is important for paramedics to self reflect and identify areas of self-perceived knowledge deficits in order to assist with self-directed learning
- Knowledge of barriers to training and desired methods of education delivery is required in order to facilitate efficient and effective CME

Objective

- To identify self-perceived knowledge deficits of paramedics, barriers to training and desired methods of self-directed continuing education

Methods

- A written 58 question survey was delivered to all 1262 paramedics under the jurisdiction of a single base-hospital in Ontario, Canada.
- Respondents were asked to select “deficit”, “no deficit” or “not applicable” from a 37-point, anatomic systems-based list.
- They were then asked to identify from a 15-point list which educational modalities they would choose to address any knowledge deficits.
- Finally, they were asked which factors they took into consideration when choosing their self-directed continuing education.

Results

- Seven hundred forty-six of 1262 paramedics (59.11%) completed the surveys.
- Of these respondents, 82 (10.99%) were advanced care paramedics, while 664 (89.01%) were primary care paramedics.
- Of the 645 who responded with their primary geographical setting: 136 (21.09%) listed a primary urban practice, 126 (19.53%) listed a primary rural practice and 287 (44.50%) reported a split urban and rural practice

Results

Conclusions

- Paramedics in this base hospital system identified pediatric critical care situations, electrolyte abnormalities and cardiac arrhythmia as self-perceived deficits.
- The most commonly selected educational opportunities included online learning, in-person training and peer consult.
- These preferred modalities are consistent with the identified barriers of work scheduling, ease of attending and cost.
- Targeted educational needs based assessments can help ensure that appropriate topics are delivered in a fashion that help overcome identified barriers to self-directed learning.