

The SA Pharmacy Medication History-Taking Entrustable Professional Activity tool is easy to use, facilitates feedback on performance, and promotes learner development.

Advancing Medication History-Taking Entrustable Professional Activities

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Introduction

- An Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) is a unit of professional practice (task or responsibility) that professionals within a field perform autonomously.
- The medication history taking EPA is a clinical training tool utilised by pharmacists, intern pharmacists, clinical technicians, and pharmacy students in Australian hospitals.
- No Australian studies have previously evaluated the effectiveness of using the medication history-taking EPA in hospital pharmacy practice, thus, its relevance and impact are unclear.

Aims

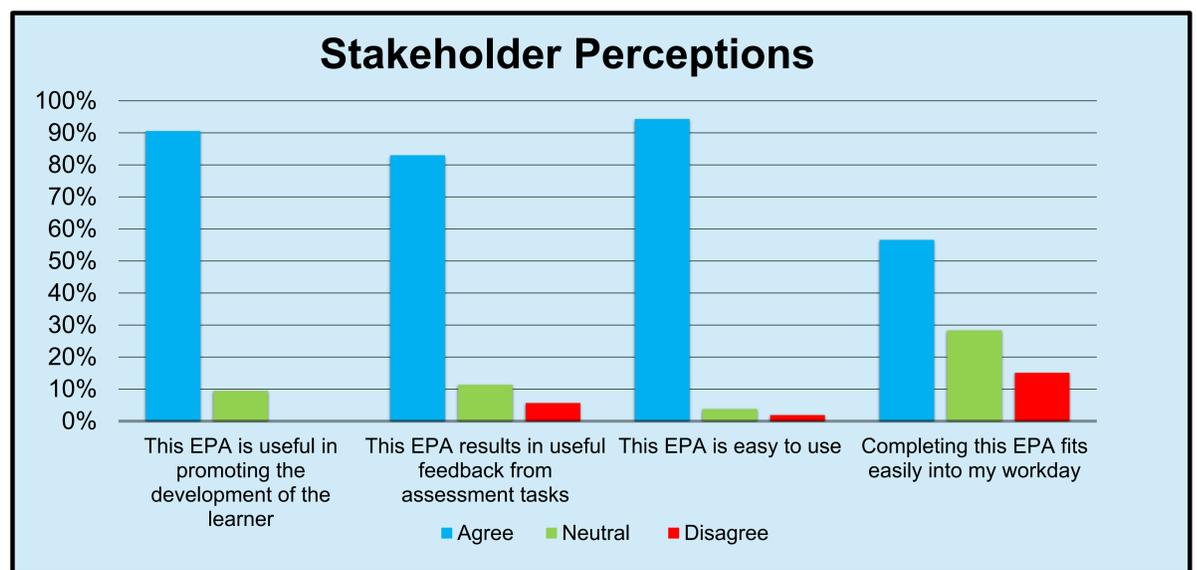
To evaluate the quality, usability, and usefulness of the medication history-taking EPA tool in the hospital pharmacy setting.

Method

- A voluntary online questionnaire was conducted from July to August 2021 to gather the opinions of SA Pharmacy staff and students on the use of the medication history-taking EPA tool.
- The questionnaire was adapted from a validated pharmacy EPA evaluation tool (EQual tool) and it utilised open-text and multiple-choice questions (using Likert scales).
- The questionnaire was distributed using Survey Monkey® to a purposeful sample of SA Pharmacy staff and students who had used the EPA in the previous 18 months.

Results

- 82 responses were received from 218 surveys distributed, giving a response rate of 38%.
- 14% per cent of respondents had used EPAs as evaluators, 44% as learners, and 39% as both.
- Most stakeholders believed the EPA promotes the development of learners and the provision of useful feedback. Over 90% considered the tool to be simple to use and 56% indicated that using it fits easily within their workday.



- Time impact was a frequently reported limitation of the EPA in the open-text responses.
- Stakeholders mentioned in open-text responses that some sections of the EPA tool are not relevant for students, intern pharmacists, technicians, and hospitals using electronic records.

Discussion

- The EPA tool was considered easy to use, however, time needed to complete it was a frequently reported limitation in the free-text responses. This may explain why few stakeholders indicated that completing the EPA tool fits easily in their workday.
- Barriers complicating the integration of the EPA tool into daily practice have been suggested and may include how the tool is used, the length of the checklist and the presence of irrelevant sections. Further research using qualitative techniques is needed to better understand the nature of these barriers.

For more information

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