

Unique & Innovative

- Performing 'virtual visits' during clinical experiences is not standard practice.
- It could help offset the financial constraints that are limiting schools from performing site visits for DPT students while on their clinical experiences.

Purpose

- How do we oversee 62 students on clinical experiences while seeing growing financial limitations to perform site visits?
- This case report was written to help determine the benefits and struggles related to performing a Skype 'visit' with students and clinical instructors during a clinical experience.

Method/Description

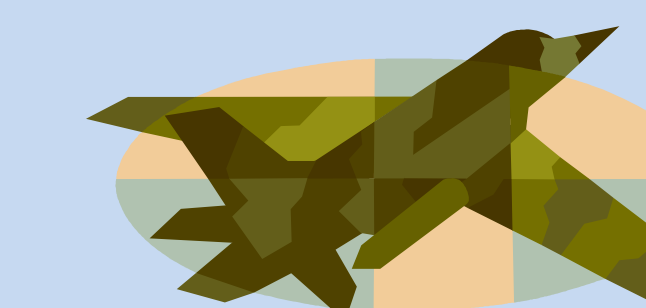
- Three DPT students began their final clinical experience (out of 3) in the Spring 2015.
- The Director of Clinical Education (DCE) performed their mid-term 'visit' utilizing Skype.
 - ~Discussions with both the student and the clinical instructor
 - ~'Virtual' tour of the facility
- DCE compiled data related to cost of the new process and if traditional visits had occurred
 - ~Equipment and mailing cost
 - ~Estimated costs, if DCE had visited these sites
- At the completion of the Clinical Experience (April 2015), DCE surveyed the students (2) and CI(1) that provided informed consent to participate
 - ~To gather their feedback on the Skype visit as compared to a phone call and in-person visit
- DCE compiled results of perceptions from students, CIs, and DCE regarding this new process for 'virtual visits'.
 - ~Cost savings
 - ~Pros and Cons based on stakeholders' feedback



Conclusion

Skype visits are good alternatives to in person visits and more beneficial than phone calls for students while they are performing a clinical rotation at a distance from their school.

Benefits



- Cost effective
- Provides face to face interactions
- Able to visually tour a clinic that is too far for travel
- Time and scheduling efficiency
- Assists with DCEs knowledge of a clinical site, thus improving their ability to effectively advise students

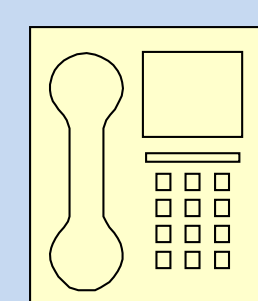
Challenges

- Mailing iPad to site (delivery issues)
- Access to Wi-Fi limited at some sites
- Finding a private place to perform Skype visit

Results/Outcomes

Benefits compared to Phone Call

- ❖Able to make eye contact – more personal conversation (C, S1, S2, D)
- ❖Able to do a tour of the clinic (C, D)
- ❖Able to see student and CI interactions (C,D)

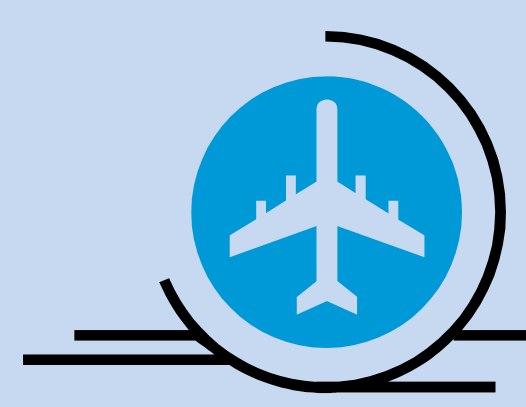


Challenges compared to Phone Call

- ❖No challenges noted(C, S2)
- ❖Difficult finding private space (S1)
- ❖Mailing the iPad mini to site (D)
- ❖Requires access to the Wi-Fi network (D)

Benefits compared to In Person Visit

- ❖Cheaper (C, D)
- ❖More convenient (S1, S2)
- ❖More efficient with time (C, S2)
- ❖Easier to schedule (D)



Challenges compared to In Person Visit

- ❖No challenges noted(C, S1)
- ❖UNE faculty to interact with CCCE/CI (S2)
- ❖Mailing the iPad mini to site (D)
- ❖Requires access to the Wi-Fi network (D)

C = Clinical Instructor
S1= Student 1
S2 = Student 2
D = DCE

Additional Comment: "I still believe an in-person visit is better than a Skype visit, but understand that when students are far away from campus, an in-person visit is not possible. With this in mind, a Skype visit is the best option than a phone call" (student 1)

Cost Summary

•Estimated cost to visit a student that was placed outside of Maine: \$700-\$975/student.

•Estimated cost for Skype visit for the 1st time: \$350/student.

•Estimated cost for Skype visit after initial visit: \$50/student.

*Cost differences for 1st time and later Skype visits was due to the cost to purchase equipment. Cost after that is based on mailing expenses.

Funding Source

The Physical Therapy Department at the University of New England in Portland, Maine funded this case study.