

Quality Improvement / Service Development

Abstract ID = 8709

Presented at: 4.5 Oral Abstracts 5 COPD Low and Middle-Income Countries 01/06/2018 10:20-11:20

Translating an internet-based spirometry training for health care practitioners in Vietnam: The FRESH AIR H2020 experience

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Aim

To explore the feasibility of translating an English spirometry training program into Vietnamese, to increase use by primary care health care practitioners (HCP) in Vietnam.

Brief outline of context

Although spirometry is central to diagnosing and managing chronic lung diseases, access to this test is minimal in most Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Lack of training and feedback on performance is one limiting factor. The UW provided access to Spirometry 360, an online spirometry training and feedback program to HCPs in Vietnam. Tracking of both logins and completions of trainings demonstrated that English was a barrier to uptake.

Brief description of the change/intervention and why it would work

Professors An's and Stout's teams embarked upon translating the resources from English into Vietnamese. Vietnamese is the primary language for education in Vietnam.

Strategy for Change

Professor An's team created a Vietnamese translation of the slides and scripts of Spirometry 360. These materials were then back-translated into English by a Vietnamese-fluent Seattle collaborator. Differences were reconciled by both teams through video conferencing and email. An additional online log-in tutorial in Vietnamese was developed. The Vietnamese Spirometry 360 launch event was delivered in-person, and remotely, on December 15th, 2017. Professor An's team now monitors program logins and completions, and administers certifications.

Effects of Changes

Access to English Spirometry 360 training resources was enabled for Vietnam in July 2016. By January 2017, 20 HCPs had logged in. By June 2017, only 5 HCPs (25%) had completed the materials. Since the December 2017 Vietnamese version release, an additional 28 HCPs have logged in, a number that should increase over coming months. Now the feedback portion of the Spirometry 360 program will begin. Feedback results will be presented in May 2018.

Lessons Learnt

The need for a translation process should have been included in the initial grant as a designated deliverable. There is more engagement with training materials when the local language is used.

Message for Others: Consider the context of your program users.

Declaration of Interest: FRESH AIR was funded by the EU Research and Innovation program Horizon2020 under grant agreement no. 680997. This study is registered under trial registration number: NTR5759. <http://www.trialregister.nl/trialreg/admin/rctsearch.asp?Term=23332>

References and Clinical Trial Registry Information 1. www.spirometry360.org