

Core Curriculum Session

The Nurses and Allied Professionals (NAPs) presents a key document at this year's PCR during the NAP sessions. For those who missed it you have no need to worry, the slides from the session can be found @ PCR on line and the Core Curriculum including the Matrix (logbook) are also available to download from the EAPCI website. The curriculum is the beginning of the standardization of professional development for NAPs working in the cath lab in Europe. The planned goal is for an on line education program (ESCel) and eventually certification. It all seems so easy and the NAPs want this so why should this be a problem?

During the session we heard point of views from Denmark (Wettendorf) and Germany (Jacobs) as to how the curriculum could be implemented in these countries. We know from surveys and the literature that all countries are not created equal when it comes to education and regulations of NAPs in Europe. Both presentations did a great job of showing the positive and negative aspects of introducing European standards.

We know that the task of implementing the curriculum throughout Europe will be a challenge due to:

- A mixed group of professionals working in the cath lab and this varies from country to country
- Different standards and levels of education, including entry level of education for the NAP professions
- Each group is governed by different professional laws and regulations
- Each group has different levels in their scope of practice
- Politically weak professional groups in some countries, to help implement the curriculum

The core Curriculum will be useful in standardizing the educational needs for NAPs working in the cath lab. The Curriculum focuses on patient centered care, and will raise the NAPs competencies in a highly complex technical area.

The Core Curriculum has 9 themes where theory and clinical practice are integrated in a holistic approach to education. Each of the themes content is organized with objectives, knowledge, skills, and attitudes & behaviors. A syllabus is included where the themes are broken down into more detailed subject areas. The complementing piece of the curriculum is the skills matrix; this is a log book which should be used to document the trainee's achievements as they progress through their training. The matrix is separated into 5 levels of knowledge, from the beginning with no knowledge,

ending at a level where they will be able to train others. There is no set time limit to acquire skills or progress to other levels of expertise, all people learn at different rates and / or have already acquired some knowledge and competence before entering the cath lab. The matrix needs to be signed off by the trainee and a mentor or supervisor at every level, therefore the matrix can be used as a document of proof for competence.



The Curriculum can be used at a hospital level for training new staff or developing competencies for current staff. It can be used at a national level as a standard for all cath labs in that country. The best scenario being that it will be used as the standard for a University based program for a specialty program for the Cath lab.

Plans for the future include having a complete e-learning NAP program on the ESCal platform and certification, so stay informed and join our group on LinkedIn (nurses and allied professionals EAPCI) or see you later at the next PCR.