

Title: Developing educational materials to address a range of learning styles - insights from a training programme for pharmacists in Ireland

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Abstract:

Background It is well documented that individuals have preferred ways of learning. It is generally accepted that learning is enhanced when learners have the opportunity to engage with training materials which match their learning style. Purpose This poster describes the design and evaluation of training materials which were developed as educational tools to help pharmacists to prepare for participation in a professional quality assurance process in Ireland. Methods The Irish Institute of Pharmacy created a suite of online learning materials using three distinct modes of instruction; interactive media-rich content, video presentations and printed guides. Pilot participants could choose their preferred mode of instruction within each topic. Evaluation questionnaires were distributed to participants to evaluate their perception of the materials. Results There was a positive response to the concept of self-identifying and self-selecting different modalities of training in line with personal preferences for learning. General feedback was positive. Conflicting views were detected for different types of training, thus demonstrating different preferences for learning amongst participants and reinforcing the view that there is no singular ideal mode of delivery of this training. Conclusion The approach adapted in the development of these training materials facilitated learning for participants with a range of learning preferences. An evaluation of the programme indicated that the approach was well received by participants. This approach will form the basis of future approaches for training programmes within the Irish Institute of Pharmacy.