



The QuRE is Spreading

Quality Referral Evolution or QuRE (pronounced 'cure') has garnered a lot of interest recently across the country and yes, even globally. Here's what is happening with the QuRE working group.

By Faye Osioy

Would you believe that the most common piece of missing information on a referral form is 'a clear reason for referral'? Armed with and impassioned by this knowledge the committed members of the Quality Referral Evolution (QuRE) working group presses forward. They are on a path of continuous improvement with a mission to spread the evolution of quality referrals. Their efforts, including workshops for residency students and development of the popular QuRE pocket checklist, have not gone unnoticed.

Recently the group was approached by other jurisdictions for permission to use the checklist in their home provinces. Then, a chance exposé of the pocket checklist card at a medical forum in Qatar piqued considerable interest. It would seem there is a thirst for quality improvement that transcends Alberta's borders at both the sending and receiving ends of the referral process.

The QuRE working group is currently pursuing CME, CFPC and RCPSC accreditation with the expectation of broadening the reach of the workshops to include a growing number of practicing clinicians. To enhance the program the QuRE working group is undertaking the design of new interactive learning content using OpenLabyrinth or OLab.

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Working group member Dr. David Topps is a fan of the platform: “We have used OLab [at U of C] for over a decade and we continue to provide a design lead for the OpenLabyrinth Development Consortium, an open-source international collaborative.”

When asked if this will impact accreditation, Topps states, “By incorporating reflective exercises, timed reminders, case-based problem solving, and real-time decision support tools, OLab can strengthen our offerings, allowing us to seek higher level accreditation status. Both CFPC and RCPSC appreciate learning designs which incorporate such features.”

The QuRE team is rolling up their sleeves to enrich the QuRE learning experience with OpenLabyrinth's powerful educational tools

“Teachers can be much more creative in producing online case-based learning exercises. The modular approach allows groups to repurpose previous content and integrate the materials with other learning sessions”, states Topps.

Though simple on the surface OLABs has very sophisticated underlying activity metrics. These metrics can reveal what learners actually do in a given situation, not just what a 3rd party observer or they themselves say they do.

The QuRE team is rolling up their sleeves to enrich the QuRE learning experience with OLAB's powerful educational tools including interactive virtual scenarios, video mashups and small group learning functionality. The goal of this exercise is to enable referring clinicians to send high quality referral documents thereby ensuring patients will get the right care in the timeliest way possible. With such a noble cause, no wonder the QuRE is spreading.