

Medicine_____As a result of the ALPS pilot, over 500 fourth and fifth year medical students now have iPhones to access their e-portfolio and submit assessments.

Medicine

Two hundred and fifty 3rd year medical students from the University of Leeds piloted the ALPS assessment tools via the mobile ALPS Assessment Suite or by using electronically scanned paper-based tools.

The students used three of the ALPS assessment tools: 'Gaining consent', 'Demonstrating respect for a service user or carer', 'Providing information to colleagues', and a specifically designed 'Physical examination' tool built using the ALPS tool authoring facility.

These four tools were delivered to mobile devices or copied onto paper for the students. Responses sent from the mobile devices were automatically uploaded to the ALPS Assessment Suite (on a password protected server) where tutors and students could review and give/receive feedback. Paper-based tools were collected, and then scanned into an electronic format. Written feedback was provided by tutors and e-mailed to the students.

Those students (148) allocated to use the mobile devices were trained in the use of the device in addition to the purpose of the formative assessment tools. The remainder of the students (108) used paper-based copies of the assessment tool, and were mainly chosen because the placements areas they were going to (at that time) had poor mobile reception, therefore it would be difficult to upload any assessments completed.

As there are 250 medical students in the third year, a number of tutors, not necessarily from the medical profession, were set up to provide feedback. An additional three medical tutors provided backup just in case there was a situation where specific clinical comments were required.

Additionally, a group of Patient Voice assessors who were already involved in communication training to this group of medical students, were trained in the use of the tools and provided feedback with support.

Results

Students were asked to attend a focus group. Those who attended had all used the mobile devices.

Students reported that the tools facilitated wider access to feedback opportunities:

'In the GP practice ...it opened up a bigger discussion and we ended up having a wider chat about sort of a mini-evaluation just from asking them to do it'

'You get opportunity to actually start discussing it...and I think anything like that kind of reminds them why you are there as well because they have to think "oh what are you learning?" and so that's quite good and to verbalise it'

'It was a good way of formalising it'
Peer feedback

'I think it's some of the most helpful people to receive feedback from... I think from the people that I did speak to I think possibly I got most out of that because it's the other side to the story'
Service user feedback

The Patient Voice group were also invited to a focus group and they said;

'Our feedback is a teaching tool in itself'

As a result of this pilot, fourth and fifth year medical students now have iPhones to access their e-portfolio and submit assessments. Second and third year students are continuing to use the four assessment tools and can use the tools with iPhones, PCs in practice, or paper, depending on the situation.

250

Medical Students

Two hundred and fifty 3rd year medical students from the University of Leeds piloted the ALPS assessment tools via the mobile ALPS Assessment Suite or by using electronically scanned paper-based tools.



148 Students given mobile devices to complete assessments

108 Students given paper version of the assessments

46 Placement locations

6 NHS Trusts

