

Module I-6

Research

Overview

The purpose of this module is to introduce research as a core component of the role of the diabetes educator. The module should be designed to cater for students with little or no research training. It should emphasize the role of research in diabetes education and management as a change agent. It should also encourage the students to reflect on their practice and develop skills in critical thinking.

The module is included in the knowledge that the majority of students will not be formally involved in conducting research. However, they will all need specific skills to be able to assess research papers and use new information in their practice. The role of research for the individual student should be discussed with respect to:

- Professional development
- Increasing knowledge
- Developing project management skills
- Developing critical appraisal and reflective practice skills
- Improving practice
- Evidence-based practice
- Making presentations and/or publishing

Goals

- To provide participants with an understanding of research principles
- To provide participants with skills to read and critically analyse scientific literature
- To provide participants with increased understanding of the importance of using research evidence in clinical practice

Objectives

After completing this module the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the three major research methods – qualitative, quantitative and quality management/audit
- Critique research literature, including assessing bias

- Interpret basic statistical results
- Describe ethical issues in research, including informed consent
- Discuss current research in diabetes prevention and management involving new technologies and therapies
- Describe how the research evidence is interpreted and used in practice in order to improve evidence-based diabetes management
- Identify the major steps in the research process, including reviewing the literature*
- Describe basic methods of statistical analysis*
- Write basic research reports and communicate results*

Teaching strategies

Analysis of a published article
 Group discussion
 Practice – searching a database

Suggested time

4 hours

Who should teach this module

Doctor, scientist, educator with research skills

Evaluation of learning

Critique of a published piece of research
 Develop the outline for a research plan*

References

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* Indicates objectives at an advanced level