CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING OF GP REGISTRARS – WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? ASSESSING THE PERCEPTIONS AND TRAINING NEEDS OF GP SUPERVISORS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

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Background:
Culture influences an individual’s experience of health and illness and alters the way health care is sought, given and accepted by that individual and their community. GPs’ ability to adopt behaviors, attitudes and policies that enable effective interaction in a cross-cultural context is vital in improving health care of potentially marginalised groups and reducing the disparities that currently exist between culturally diverse groups.

In a regional training area as diverse as Western Sydney, GP supervisors play a major role in GP registrar training but what is their role in assessing and supervising the cultural competence of their registrars?

Aims/objective:
This study aims to (1) explore GP supervisors’ perception of culturally competent practice, their role in cultural competence training of registrars and their perceived learning needs in this area (2) examine current ways in which cultural competency is being taught and assessed.

Methods/approach:
Evidence-based methods for cultural competence training of health care providers have been identified through a literature review. Semi-structured interviews with WentWest GP supervisors will be analysed thematically and a questionnaire for GP registrars will explore ways in which cultural competence is currently being taught and assessed.

Results/findings:
There is a paucity of literature regarding the role of GP supervisors in ensuring culturally competent practice in their registrars. Recent developments in cultural competency training and theory will be presented as they relate to training in primary care. Findings from the GP supervisor interviews and GP registrar surveys will be presented.

Discussion:
Outside Indigenous health training posts, the role of GP supervisors in this area appears underdeveloped, despite being a core curriculum component and a core expectation of patients in the community. Understanding the attitudes, existing skills and training needs of GP supervisors in this area is key to the development of recommendations to improve training in cultural competence for registrars.