Objectives

To determine the effect of the DMCA Workshop on physicians' confidence and comfort with decision-making capacity assessments.

Methods

DMCA Workshops

Four 3-hour workshops were delivered across Alberta in 2014. The DMCA Workshop was accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 3 Mainpro-C credits.

Sample

Physicians (n=54) in the DMCA workshops.

Instrument

We developed pre- and post-workshop questionnaires, consisting of 15 core concepts of capacity. Participants were asked to rate their awareness, understanding, or confidence of these concepts using Likert-like scales.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (x, SD); Sign Test to compare post- vs. pre-workshop ratings; Analysis of Variance to determine differences in ratings across demographic characteristics.

Results

- Participants: Mean age of 47 years; 64% females
- 66% worked ≥ 6 years in their current setting
- 50% previously attended DMCA presentations

Effect

- There was a significant improvement (p<0.001) in the post- compared to pre-workshop ratings for all the items.
- Those without prior DMCA training had the largest change in pre-versus post-workshop ratings (p<0.05).
- The post-workshop ratings were mostly Agrees and Strongly Agrees (Mean ratings: 3.08-3.63; Range: 1-4).

Discussion

- The results indicate that the information provided in the workshops is valuable for physicians regardless of years worked in the current setting.
- The pattern of findings provides important feedback on modifications to delivering future workshops.
- The workshops will continue to be held in the same format with a greater focus on capacity interviewing.

Conclusion

- There is a need for DMCA training for physicians.
- The content and method of the workshop is effective.
- Next step: Establish what Family Physicians want to strengthen DMCA training; Customize the workshop for Family Physicians.