

Evaluating a Novel Curriculum Communication Skills

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Abstract

- We developed a novel curriculum to **model** -- and allow students to **practice** -- important communication skills with **real** patients, many of whom are seriously ill.
- This study was designed to:
 - Assess the effectiveness of the new curriculum in teaching communication skills at the bedside
 - Evaluate student preferences regarding communication skills training
 - Measure students' self-assessments of their increased confidence and proficiency in communication skills as a result of the curriculum

- Based on our preliminary **most promising improvements**
 - **discussing patients** (0.94 point average improvement)
 - **exploring psychosocial** (0.89 point improvement)
 - **discussing religious** (0.75 point improvement)
 - **discussing poor prognosis** (0.7 point improvement)

How well

Very well prepared 4

Background & Purpose