

Exchanging and Examining Evidence: A Pilot Program

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INTRODUCTION

The "Exchanging and Examining Evidence" pilot program was developed to provide continuing education opportunities and create connections amongst the speech-language pathologists (SLPs) of Nuvance Health. Research has shown that journal clubs are utilized across the allied health field and can improve application of evidence-based practice (EBP) and scholarly research to daily clinical practices. Limited time, inadequate experience and cost of access have historically been reported as barriers to SLPs accessing EBP. The "Exchanging and Examining Evidence" pilot program aimed to address the above barriers via creation of an internet-housed bank of recent research and clinical materials, initiation of a virtual monthly guided discussion (journal club) and access to a platform that increases communication opportunities amongst therapists despite the geographical distance between sites.

OBJECTIVES

The "Exchanging and Examining Evidence" pilot program will:

1. Provide SLPs access to research, multimedia resources and web-based materials
2. Host monthly, guided discussions for SLPs of Nuvance via virtual platform
3. Increase SLPs of Nuvance Health perception of connectedness

METHODS

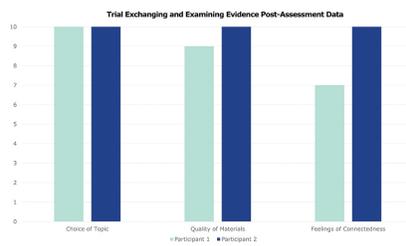
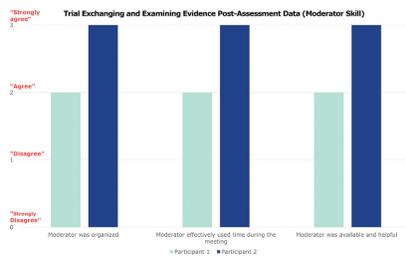
- Created internet-housed bank of materials via Microsoft Teams
- Polled SLP leads of Nuvance Health for general schedule trends to assist with planning monthly meetings and obtained a list of current SLP staff
- Created a "Nuvance SLP" Team with all SLP staff and initiated communication amongst sites
- Tried guided discussion using curated educational materials at one site
- Met with SLP leads of Nuvance Health to explain program objectives and foster connections
- Registered "Exchanging and Examining Evidence" with eeds to allow for generation of CEU certificates following each monthly guided discussion
- Formally launched educational program in May of 2022

RESULTS

Preliminary data from a trial group and initial session indicate positive views of:

1. Quality of materials provided
2. Applicability of materials provided to daily practices
3. Moderator organization, skill and preparedness

Feelings of "connectedness" were varied and are expected to improve as the program progresses



CONCLUSIONS

Use of a virtual journal club is a practical option for SLPs to connect professionally despite a wide geographical spread. The creation of an internet-housed bank of educational materials allows access to free, quality research and is expected to positively impact EBP uptake. An additional benefit includes sense of system-wide "team" and feelings of connectedness stemming from increased communication between SLPs across Nuvance Health.

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