

Introduction

- In Ontario, Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) are required to perform a minimum of 24 educational credits per year of Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- Of these 24 credits, 12 are chosen by the paramedic, while 12 credits are mandated by the Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program (SWORBHP).
- The combined mandatory and optional CME frame is used so paramedics can target their personal needs appropriately, while ensuring new medical directives and global knowledge deficits identified by QA means can be addressed by the Base Hospital

Objective

- To determine if there is a difference between what ACPs identify as their knowledge deficits and what CME they complete

Methods

- Request for participation in a written survey was delivered to all ACPs within the SWORBHP, prior to the CME cycle for the year.
- Respondents were asked to identify deficits from a 37-point, organ systems-based list, with free-text option for any deficits not itemized.
- Following the annual cycle, CME credits were evaluated by the education coordinator, and SWORBHP medical directors for content.
- The deficits identified prior to the CME cycle were then compared to the CME attended for each respondent.
- In order to best represent the individual ACP response to their perceived deficits, a percentage of deficits identified and addressed was chosen.
- Respondents were not aware that their responses would be compared to the credits obtained for the year, to minimize bias in CME selection.

Results

- Of the 140 ACPs in the region, 42 (30%) completed the survey.

Results

	Median [IQR]
Number of perceived deficits identified	7.0 [3.0-10.0]
Number of CME events that addressed perceived deficits	
<i>Total</i>	2.0 [1.0-3.0]
<i>Paramedic chosen CME</i>	1.0 [0.0-2.0]
<i>Mandatory CME</i>	1.0 [0.0-2.0]
	% (Range)
Perceived deficits identified and addressed by CME	
<i>Total</i>	35.1% (0-100%)
<i>Paramedic chosen CME</i>	22.5% (0-100%)
<i>Mandatory CME</i>	20.1% (0-100%)

Conclusions

- In the current system, only 35.1% of perceived deficits were addressed through mandatory and paramedic-chosen CME.
- Further information regarding barriers to paramedics obtaining CME that meets their perceived deficits needs to be elucidated.