Using Focus Group Discussion and Delphi Method to Establish Core Competencies for EMT-P in Taiwan

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- Application of Focus group interviews and Delphi process as qualitative research instruments to facilitate the formulation of core competency framework for EMT-P in Taiwan.

Evolution of Medical Education
- Tradition
- Outcome-Based
- Competency-Based

Literature Review
- Focus group interviews
- Delphi process
- EMT-P core competency framework

EMS Education in Taiwan
- EMT-P training since 2002
- Teacher-centered
- No consensus on core competency for EMT-P

Focus Group Interviews
- Three expert panels in EMSS
  - Emergency Physician (n=10)
  - Administrative Officials of Emergency (n=10)
  - EMT-P (n=10)

Focus Group Interviews

- Three semi-structured questions
  - Which roles can EMT-P act as?
  - Which KSA should EMT-P possess?
  - What are the goals of EMT-P?

Delphi Process

- Delphi panel: 9 experts
- Before meeting:
  - read and realize the full contents of the possible core competencies for EMT-paramedics
- During meeting:
  - A series of edits and additions of the core competency comprehensive list underwent until the consensus was achieved amongst the expert panel.

Main Category Competency-oriented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Category</th>
<th>Competency-oriented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Leader (領導者)</td>
<td>1. Task assignment and decision making; 2. Problem solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Communicator (溝通協調者)</td>
<td>1. Professional demonstration; 2. Teaching and instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Educator (教育者)</td>
<td>1. Learning and improvement in practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Researcher (研究者)</td>
<td>1. Data collection; 2. Statistical analysis; 3. Improvement and promotion; 4. Evaluation and monitoring</td>
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Core Competency Framework

Main Category

A. Prehospital care provider
B. Leader
C. Communicator
D. Educator
E. Researcher
F. Advocator

Competency-oriented

1. Emergency assessment & diagnosis
2. Emergency intervention and treatment
3. Critical judgment and dispatch
4. Appropriate transportation and disposition
5. Operation safety
6. Regulation and standard of practice

1. Task assignment and decision making
2. Problem solving
3. Emergency management and command
4. Clinical communication
5. Coordination
6. Professional demonstration
7. Teaching and instruction
8. Learning and improvement
9. Data collection
10. Statistic analysis
11. Improvement and promotion
12. Evaluation and monitoring
13. Health promotion in community
14. Prehospital advisories

Applications

- Core competency framework
- Curriculum assessment & development
- Lack of educator competency training
- Learning assessment & improvement
- Competency-oriented assessments
- CBL using modified Healthcare Matrix

Methodology

- In formulation of core competency framework
  - “Focus group interviews” is an effective means to collect maximum coverage of opinions.
  - “Delphi process” is a valid method to reach a consensus.

- Focus group interviews and Delphi process are two effective qualitative research instruments to establish core competency framework for EMT-P in Taiwan.