

Title:

Community centers' critical care educational needs: The importance of identifying unperceived needs

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Objectives:

This needs assessment was designed to identify gaps in critical care delivery in community centers in Ontario to determine and prioritize perceived and unperceived educational needs of targeted community healthcare professionals, guiding the development of educational interventions targeting identified gaps.

Key points:

Identification of gaps and challenges faced by professionals providing critical care in community settings revealed perceived as well as unperceived needs related to knowledge, skill, and resource allocation and management. These findings were used to inform the development of educational initiatives designed to address these needs, providing healthcare professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to close these gaps.

An educational needs assessment was carried out to determine the educational needs of critical care professionals in Ontario community hospitals. Critical Care Strategy and: Local Health Integrated Network leaders, community healthcare professionals providing critical care, and patient representatives were included. A mixed-method approach, primarily qualitative, was employed to determine gaps in care, which in turn revealed foci for educational interventions.