Can I Get a Visual? The Impact of the New Clinical Informationist Program

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Overview
Clinical informationists provide expert support in the clinical care environment by fostering evidence-based decision making. From service inception in August 2015 through December 2016, Galter clinical informationists participated in 87 unique patient care rounds with more than 180 people from the Department of Medicine. Informationists recorded monthly reports to track the types of questions asked, methods used to answer clinical questions, and time and effort devoted to the service. These data help demonstrate the value of the service and lay the groundwork for a more formal evaluation in the future.

Timeline

- Position Inception
- MANY Stakeholders Participate in the Interview Process
- First Informationist Starts
- Initial Communication with Chief Medicine Residents and Residency Program Director
- Attend First Morning Report and Patient Rounds
- Data Collection Begins
- Testing of Different Rounding Formats
- Best Schedule Determined
- Every-Other-Week Rounding Schedule Begins
- Second Informationist Starts
- Weekly Rounding Schedule Begins
- Formal Evaluation Planning Begins

Do You Have What it Takes?
- Science Backgrounds: Undergraduate biology degrees, professional experience in laboratory science or veterinary medicine.
- Combined Clinical Experience: 18 years
- Medical Terminology Courses Taken: 1 (highly recommended)
- Average Wake-Up Time: 4:45am
- Longest rounds attended: 4.5 hours

Who Have We Served?

Typical Mon/Weds/Fri
- 7:00am-7:30am: Prep Time for other library projects
- 7:30am-8:00am: Morning report
- 8:00am-11:00am: Patient Rounds
- 11:00am-11:30am: Lunch
- 1:30pm-3:30pm: Follow-up and communication
- 3:30pm-5:00pm: Time for other library projects

Typical Tues/Thurs
- 8:00am-1:00pm: Time for other library projects
- 1:00pm-2:00pm: Contact team for following week to schedule rounds

Testimonials From the Trenches

- Thank you so much for looking into this... It was helpful to see that our patient fit well into the usual clinical course for this condition and to get confirmation that there is not good consensus (or strong evidence base) for determining whether or not to try to get fluid from the bursa to send for culture, how long to treat with IV antibiotics, or even which antibiotics to use (!)
  - Attending Physician

- [The informationists are] a tremendous resource to promote point of care, EBM care or education. We’ve seen how some teams have worked with [them] in very successful ways that really enhance rounds.
  - Internal Medicine Residency Program Director

Resources Used to Answer Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Uses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
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<td>Book Chapter</td>
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<td>Guideline</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Types of Questions

- Disease/Intervention only
- Background only
- Other only
- Drug, Background, and Disease
- Drug and Background

Databases Used to Answer Questions

- PubMed: 47 uses
- Clinical Key: 25 uses
- Embase: 6 uses
- Scopus: 3 uses

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