

**Abstract:**

**Innovative Family Medicine Residency Program Approach to Morbidity and Mortality Conferences**

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**Background:**

Morbidity and mortality (M&M) conferences are an important component in medical practice and education by providing opportunities to learn about patient safety and quality improvement. While less studied and utilized in primary care, family medicine residency programs can benefit from these conferences. Our project seeks to study an innovative approach to the M&M conference by integrating discussion of core family medicine domains in a group setting with a conference called Morbidity, Mortality, and Discussion (MM&D).

**Methods:**

Each monthly MM&D conference includes case presentation, breakout groups in discussion “domains”, report out and team reflection, concluding with a brief lecture on case learning points. Groups discuss parts respective to each domain: medical decision making, communication and teamwork, system-based care, and equity and advocacy. Presenters include junior and senior residents who debrief about the case in creating the presentation. Participants include all family medicine residents and faculty at the program. A survey was administered to all participants, including Likert-items and open response questions throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. Quantitative survey items were summarized using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, cross-tabulations, means and standard deviations. Qualitative data reviewed using the hybrid coding model and analyzed with content and thematic methods. Results: There were 45 survey responses (73% response rate) from 3 inpatient MM&D conferences. Presenters (n=5) report that presenting a case in the MM&D conference was a positive experience. Participants (n=35) overwhelmingly report the positive impact on their education. Among all questions, the largest variance was observed between different subgroups (faculty/residents, PGY2/PGY3) when asked if MM&D conferences were more educational than traditional didactic lectures. In the open response portion, three themes were identified: structure, education, and culture. Respondents value the conference’s structure for group discussion in domains and learning from peers.

**Results and Conclusions:**

In this preliminary analysis of our pilot MM&D conference, residents and faculty view the conference positively and value the opportunity to discuss cases in a structured group setting. This pilot adds to family medicine curriculum, highlighting a benefit for group case discussion. Future surveys will be done from both inpatient and clinic settings.