Using online modules to improve data systems training for students

Ryan McVey (Acting Allied Health – Advanced Clinical Educator (Interdisciplinary), Cunningham Centre
Physiotherapy Clinical Education and New Graduate Support Officer, Toowoomba Hospital)
Kath White (Instructional Designer, Cunningham Centre)

Background

As the demand for student clinical placements continues to grow, it is important to ensure that students are trained effectively to handle data systems. This project aimed to develop a standardised online Allied Health activity data collection training package for use by staff and students. The package consisted of two modules.

Aim

The project aim was to develop a standardised online Allied Health activity data collection training package for use by staff and students. This package consisted of two modules.

Process undertaken

- **Local issue identified and quality activity undertaken**
  - Identify local data quality and training need
  - Develop local solution

- **Review by statewide PI5 network**
  - Benchmark and review training provided
  - Identify statewide resource needed
  - Identify options and funding source

- **Engage Cunningham Centre to develop content**
  - Consider training modes
  - Review and update content
  - Develop modules
  - Test, validate and review

- **Implementation (current)**
  - User testing and validation
  - Refining and refinement strategy
  - Launch on iLearn platform

- **Ongoing review process**
  - Regularly review content and user feedback
  - Update and modify modules as required

Results

The design of the two modules aimed to enhance interactivity for users and promote practical application of the content covered to adequately prepare users to input data into PI5. Based on user testing feedback, 85% of users agreed the information was presented in a way that kept their attention and was easy to navigate. The following screenshots illustrate the interactive nature of the content.

Key challenges

- Balancing user interactivity and learner engagement with budget, access and hosting considerations
- Stakeholder engagement and project funding
- Ensuring technology compatibility both within and outside Queensland Health

Key learnings

- To develop a successful training package:
  - Engage the right people at the right time
  - Undertake user testing to ensure you balance interactivity, ease of use and content
  - Don’t overload the user with unnecessary content
  - Thoroughly plan and design the training package before you develop the content. Investing time at the planning stage reduces delays and additional costs during development.
- Before developing content, consider the following questions:
  - Who is the target audience?
  - How will the user access the training and where will the package be hosted?
  - What should the user know or be able to do upon completing the module?
  - How will the user’s knowledge, ability or competence be assessed?

Conclusions

- Online learning may provide greater consistency, flexibility and user interactivity, however it may also require higher initial outlay and longer development timeframes than traditional learning resources.
- Potential online training should be rigorously evaluated to ensure it is suitable to translate into an online learning environment.
- Comprehensive planning is the key to success.
- The PI5 online training package should be available for use by staff and students on the new Queensland Health iLearn platform from November 2015.

References