Fostering professional development among UK dental undergraduates with a dental scrubs ceremony: findings of a pilot initiative

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Presentation overview

• What is a dental scrubs ceremony?
  • White Coat ceremony
  • Teaching and learning of professionalism
• Pilot: Scrubs ceremony 23rd January 2015
  • Rationale
  • Aims and objectives
  • Method
  • Results
• Reflections on the teaching of professionalism with a scrubs ceremony
https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3864/15333088492_4f50d37359_b.jpg

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The Scrubs ceremony-23rd January 2015

Rationale/background for the initiative:

1. Sectoral issues
2. Faculty level
3. Student behaviour
The Scrubs ceremony - 23rd January 2015

Aims:

• To introduce students to the concept of professionalism
• To provide guidance and information to Year 2 dental students as they transition into the clinical phase of their training
• To offer an occasion where students can publically declare their commitment to patient-centred care and professional behaviour.
Objectives

• The scrubs ceremony will:
  • Provide students with an opportunity to personally reflect upon and acknowledge their responsibilities as dental students
  • Provide students with an opportunity to publically assume such obligations through the signing of a pledge of conduct.
  • Underline the respect and trust that the public places in the dental profession.
  • Remind students of the vocational aspects of their work and the importance of putting the interests of their patients first.
What did the scrubs ceremony entail?

1. A 1.5 hour seminar focusing on dental professionalism and the roles and responsibilities of dental students (facilitated by PN, AW, LNCN; guest speaker from the Faculty)

2. Students discuss and then sign a student pledge detailing a code of conduct and values

3. Handing out of scrubs by Acting Head of School
Student feedback and evaluation of the Scrubs ceremony

- Student feedback on the Scrubs ceremony was collected at two different time points—immediately after the ceremony and at the end of term.
Data collection point 1: overall impressions

• 47.2% of students found the scrubs ceremony to be ‘Okay’ overall

• 51.4% thought it ‘slightly worthwhile’ and 36.1% thought it ‘moderately worthwhile’
Data collection point 1: existing levels of knowledge

• 43.2% of students already has ‘a bit of knowledge’ about dental professionalism
• 44% had ‘a little’ knowledge of student code of conduct/responsibilities
• 32.4% of students had ‘quite a bit’ of knowledge about digital professionalism
• 37.5% had ‘a little’ knowledge of UH Bristol dress code
Data collection point 1: impact on learning

• The students reported that the scrubs ceremony was effective in helping them learn about student code of conduct and dental professionalism

• However, qualitative responses suggest that the students have a specific understanding of professionalism and their responsibilities
Data collection point 1: the following week - Emergent themes

- ‘the handing out of scrubs was good and the meaning of scrubs was good’
- ‘really enjoyed receiving the scrubs’
- ‘gave lots of info on importance factors of clinical time’
Data collection point 1: the following week - Emergent themes

• ‘Good concept, spend less time on professionalism, more time on dress code’

• ‘No need to explain every sentence of the pledge in so much detail. Good to go through and define key terms, but went into too much detail’

• ‘More emphasis on dress code and mandatory rules rather than meaning of scrubs’
Data collection point 1: the following week - Emergent themes

• Relevance and duplication of content
• The majority of students highlighted a problem with time management—the ceremony overran by 1 hour. They recommended either shortening the ceremony or introducing a break to the proceedings.
Data collection point 2: end of term

Question: Please assess the usefulness of different teaching and learning methods for your course

<table>
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<th>No use</th>
<th>Little use</th>
<th>Some use</th>
<th>Quite useful</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=58  
[total cohort=72]
Discussion points and issues for consideration

• Q. What is professionalism?
  • Can it be taught?
  • How is it best learned?

• Q. Is a scrubs ceremony a useful way of teaching professionalism?
Any further questions?

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Appendix A: Programme of events for the inaugural Scrubs ceremony

Provisional schedule for the Scrubs ceremony

- 10.30: Welcome address, Ms Sarah Bain, Interim Head of School
- 10.35: Outline schedule for the morning
- 10.40: What is a scrubs ceremony and why do we need one?
- 10.50: What is professionalism?
  - Defining dental professionalism
  - Dental student code of conduct
  - Introduction to digital professionalism - Jane Williams
  - Dress code of UH Bristol Trust
- 12.30-1.00: Scrubs ceremony
  - Handing out of dental scrubs
  - Signing of the dental pledge
- 1.00-1.15: Sign up for lockers
Appendix B: The pledge of conduct

The Promise

I undertake that, as an undergraduate in Dentistry of the University of Bristol,

I will practise my profession to the best of my knowledge and ability with conscience and integrity.

I will respect all the information confided in me and the choices people make.

I will not use my dental knowledge contrary to the dental code of conduct.

I will put the interests of those placed in my care first and treat them with dignity.

As part of my duty to others, I will take care of my physical and mental well-being.

I will hold in due respect the honourable traditions and obligations of the dental profession.

Recognising what I have learnt from my teachers, I will act as an ambassador for my profession and my School in all my actions.

I will work for the good of those whose health may be placed in my care and for the public wellbeing.