

Expanding Access to Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in Primary Care

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INTRO

In July 2016, the AAFP Congress of Delegates adopted a resolution to increase POCUS education in family medicine, citing the many benefits of ultrasound in clinical practice, and the goals of:

1. Having POCUS included in every FM residency
2. Increasing faculty professional development programs regarding POCUS training.

However, considerable barriers to comprehensive ultrasound education currently exist.

METHODS

- Electronic survey was distributed to residents (n=23) and faculty (n=4) at the UAFM Alvernon Residency.
- Questions assessed degree of interest in learning POCUS, perceived barriers to POCUS implementation, perceived benefits and downsides of POCUS, and identification of the ultrasound techniques respondents were most interested in incorporating into their clinical practice.

RESULTS

- 74% of respondents were moderately or very interested in learning POCUS.
- Respondents identified patient satisfaction, shortened time to diagnosis, cost savings, and decreased radiation as potential benefits of POCUS.
- Respondents identified time constraints, risk for improper use, liability, and lack of knowledge as downsides of POCUS.

DISCUSSION

- There is a high degree of interest in POCUS training at UAFM. Current efforts to expand POCUS curriculum are limited by lack of trained faculty and lack of adequate ultrasound equipment in the outpatient clinical setting.
- Based on these results, quarterly half-day POCUS workshops were incorporated into resident teaching day, with plans to continue this in the years to come.

74% of residents and faculty expressed a **high degree of interest in learning POCUS.**

The greatest **barriers** to expansion of ultrasound training at the University of Arizona include **lack of trained faculty** and **lack of access to ultrasound machines.**

Respondents identified **OBGYN, soft tissue, DVT screening** and **procedural guidance** as the highest yield POCUS skills.



Take a picture to download the full data and results

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