


## 'Education Hour': online sexual health continuing professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic provides opportunities and inclusivity

Sexual health services have continued to provide care for patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> Maintaining an engaged workforce has been challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic due to shielding, quarantining, experiencing redeployment, having unscheduled time off and concerns about COVID-19 transmission at work. We have previously shown that engaging clinicians in continuing professional development (CPD) improves work satisfaction and reduces unscheduled time off work.<sup>2</sup> In July of 2020, we reintroduced a dedicated hour of live online sexual health education, 'Education Hour', using Microsoft teams with two 20 min prerecorded presentations of either audit, quality improvement projects, back to basics, research or journal club and involved the whole multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and wider Sussex sexual health network. Clinicians have access to the presentations after the live event. Forty out of 101 clinicians (17 doctors, 13 nurses, 8 health advisers, 1 pharmacist and 1 administration officer) responded to an anonymous online survey evaluating Education Hour. Clinicians rated Education Hour as excellent (median Likert score 4.55/5.0) and stated that Education Hour improved their

clinical knowledge (4.42) and their clinical practice (4.33) and felt it is safer accessing education online (4.15). Furthermore, 42% accessed the presentations after the event. In the free-text responses, clinicians appear to value the inclusivity of Education Hour as it involves more of the MDT than face-to-face education previously did, partly because prerecorded online presentations are less intimidating, so all members of the MDT feel comfortable presenting or engaging in the postpresentation discussion. Clinicians stated that Education Hour has improved team building and communication between clinicians and departments and is accessible anytime and anywhere, for those working less than full time or remotely. Provision of online education appears to be a highly acceptable method of providing CPD during the COVID-19 pandemic and offers unique opportunities, including improved accessibility and team building in a less intimidating environment.

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