

Introducing the Middle East Primary Care Quality Improvement Program (MEQUIP)

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The Needs

Our time working on the MEJFM and various regional and global postgraduate medical education projects and strategies have seen standards, policies and institutions in the Middle East and North Africa greatly advance. However this is not the situation in all regional countries and there are still issues that affect all countries of the region.

The needs range from Middle East and North Africa trained doctors finding difficulty obtaining employment in many regional and international organisations, such as Medical schools and hospitals, lack of ongoing postgraduate education (CME/CPD) often required by these organisations and a huge variation in standards and prior education among practising doctors greatly affecting population health in a range of countries.

Middle East Primary Care Quality Improvement program (MEQUIP)

This program, rolling out November 1 is designed to meet the needs stated above.

Education Overview

Sourced primarily from QA&CPD/QI&CPD for (Australian) General Practitioners (GPs) and Specialists and authored by educational teams including Heads of University medical departments, GP authors, postgraduate medical educators and other health professionals, the program offered has been customised and added to, to meet the requirements of all global family doctors. This includes the addition of disease not found in first world education. e.g. leprosy, TB, and medical education for where prevailing socio-economic conditions may mean that doctors do not necessarily have access to the latest technology and patients may not be able to afford therapies prescribed.

It also respects all cultures and religions.

We also recognise that in our current world of travel and tourism that nowadays every doctor everywhere needs to know everything.

Where material for such 'missing CME/CPD' does not exist in developed world medical education we have commissioned this from first world educated doctors who have practised a minimum of five years in a developing nation, in consultation with local doctors. For example our additional education for Nepal CME was written by UK, Australian and US doctors practising in Nepal in both rural clinics and the main urban based hospitals.

Additional material has been developed by medical educators from the Middle East for MEQUIP.

QA/QI&CPD standard education includes and requires

QA&QI represents the latest in CME learning formats with Information and Communications technology (ICT), as the preferred delivery model. The Quality Assurance (QA) aspect of the programs assesses both the participating doctor and the education itself through pre and post tests and evaluation modules surrounding the education. ICT is interactive and an enjoyable and proven learning model.

Doctors are tested on Behaviours, Attitudes, Skills, Knowledge and Systems in Medicine (on each particular topic) therefore it is CME in action. The aim of the Program generally is Quality Improvement (QI) of Practice

We use Professional/Adult education whereby the user compares their selected answers and "authors" agree or disagree with their choice and give them reasons why.

Participants/doctors are treated with respect and the education encourages a whole health and preventive health approach for patients.

Learning is 'case based' and each topic (e.g. Cardiovascular disease) covers all presentations in primary care, on that topic.

The MEQUIP program is further categorised as Modules: The Middle East Quality Improvement Program (CME and CPD) Outline:

Modules

Emergency Medicine
Child Health Emergencies
Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Chronic Medical Disease
Mental Health
Dermatology
Infectious Disease
Geriatrics
Office Surgery
Diagnostic Processes

An examination CD is available for each of the above Modules. This is available on Interactive CD/DVD and allows the participant to sit the exam as many times as required to achieve the pass mark required. This is to allow the program to be used as 'remedial CME/CPD', i.e. the aim is to bring the participating doctors up to standard, rather than penalise them. There is a charge for this component to cover costs as it is forwarded to each participant on CD/DVD, however this is not compulsory, rather it is available as an added component, for individual doctors and groups of participating doctors. The CME/CPD online is totally free to air.

Those who do participate in the exam module are able to print their Certificate of Satisfactory Completion from the CD itself once the required pass mark is achieved. Results can also be directly emailed to a governing body. As with the national programs already used around the world the Examination modules can be customised for national colleges and other governing bodies.

Australian QI&CPD standards for both doctors and Accredited Providers are available online at:

<https://www.racgp.org.au/education/qicpd-program/>

All programs provided by medi+WORLD International have been prior accredited at the highest category CME points. We can add further case presentations as required by the region.

Educational Background of the Principles

Dr Abdulrazak Abyad

Chairman and Founder MEAMA

Dean MMU

Chief Editor

World Family Medicine

Middle East Journal of Family Medicine

Middle East Journal of Age and Ageing

Middle East Journal of Business

Middle East Journal of Nursing

Middle East Journal of Internal Medicine

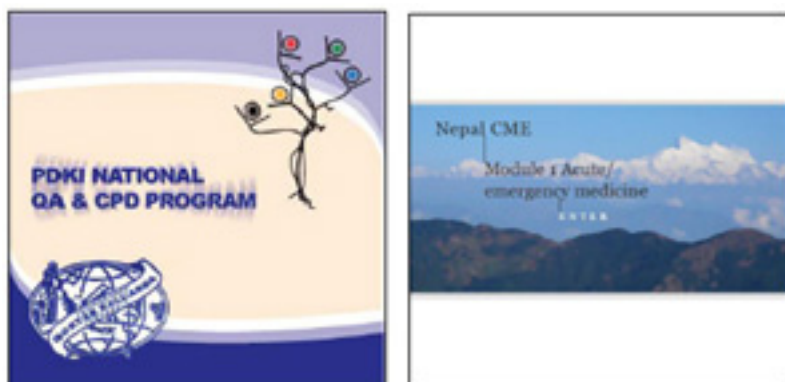
Middle East Journal of Psychiatry & Alzheimers

Founder Middle East Primary Care Research Network

Founder, Middle-East Association on Aging and Alzheimer's)

Founder, Middle East Network on Ageing Research - MENAR

Figure 1: Sample National Programs



Lesley Pocock

Accredited Provider - Postgraduate Medical Education

Publisher and Editor

Applied Sciences of Oncology University Courseware

Publisher and Editor

World Family Medicine

Middle East Journal of Family Medicine

Middle East Journal of Age and Ageing

Middle East Journal of Business

Middle East Journal of Nursing

Middle East Journal of Internal Medicine

Middle East Journal of Psychiatry & Alzheimers

(Multimedia Titles - include interactive education, animations, videos, scans etc as required by topic)

Anaemia

Ano-rectal conditions

Art of General Practice

Asthma Action plans

Child Health Emergencies

Cardiovascular Disease - Prevention and management

Depression

Dermatology

Common problems in the management of Type 2

Diabetes

Diagnostic process

ECG Interpretation (Full library of ECGs and their interpretations)

Geriatrics - Quality Care of the Aged

Hypertension & Heart Failure

Integrative medicine

Low Back Pain

Metabolic disturbances

Office procedures I

Office procedures II

Palliative Care

Parkinson's Disease and related movement disorders

Renal Disease

Sexually transmitted infections

Spirometry - how to perform and interpret

Stroke

Virtual consulting room

Women's Health I

Women's Health II

The Program can be found online at the following address:

www.mejfm.com/MEQUIP/index.htm

Figure 2: Sample Multimedia Educational title



Conclusion

The program will be run out under the guidance of a Board drawn from respected and accomplished medical educators of the MENA and MESA regions.

Academics, practising doctors and medical students may make free use of the programs, and all are welcome to submit requests, suggestions and ideas as well as educational case studies and resources to make this a genuine regional cooperation with the aim to lift the health status of all MENA and MESA populations.

The examination modules will also provide a cost effective formal national CPD program, with full reporting of national data and statistics for those countries without one.

This is a genuine initiative born out of mutual respect, a quest for excellence in the practice of medicine and regional cooperation in the spirit of Islam.