



Promoting the Learning of Evidence-Based Medicine for Clinical Workers by a Campaign Mechanism in Taiwan

Authors: Y.L. Chen, B.J. Wu, H.H. Liao, I.A. Chen

Taiwan Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, Taipei, Taiwan

Objectives:

We performed a campaign to promote the use of Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) in clinical situation, and the effectiveness of this campaign was evaluated.

Methods:

In 2006, the Taiwan Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation (TJCHA) added a new campaign goal "EBM literature review" in Healthcare Quality Improvement Campaign (HQIC), which had been promoted since 2000 in order to get Taiwanese facilities' attention to EBM. Campaign was held every year, and the candidates were medical workers, taking 3 people as a team and regulated that the team members must have different expertise. Campaign rating subjects adopted "the 5 major steps in the implementation of EBM" by David Sackett, which included: ask an answerable question , search for the best evidence, critically appraisal the evidence, application to solution of patient's clinical problem solving and evaluate performance. An expert group was asked to create a clinical situation as the campaign examination question in advance. On the day of the campaign, it was divided into three stages, the first stage:after the participating teams got the clinical scenario, they should present in writing for at least 2 PICO (Patient or Problem, Intervention, Comparison and Outcomes); the second stage: the participating teams picked up a PICO of their own choice to conduct a literature research, reading and evidence collection and made presentation slides at the same time. Finally, each team had 10 minutes to briefly present the results from the previous two stages, the judges made the rating scores. To assess the effectiveness of the activities, a questionnaire survey (a questionnaire on each team) was carried out in 2009 and 2010 respectively, every participating team was invited to make a self-assessment for the EBM skills learned after the competition, assessed subjects included: level of understanding on EBM 5 major steps, literature research skills, literature comment reading skills, the combination of EBM and clinical application, understanding the assessment on the effectiveness of EBM clinical application, teamwork and team study, as well as presentation skills. A total of 78 questionnaires were collected in two years, the response rate was 54.6%.

Results:

The results of questionnaire showed that the top three skills which the participating team learned the most in the campaign were: " level of understanding on EBM 5 major steps" ,"enhancement of teamwork" and "enhancement of EBM literature research skills"; analysis scores of the participating teams in 2009 to 2010 found that, among the five rating dimensions "PICO quality and quantity" had the best scores, followed by "literature research"; and the subjects that need to be strengthened the most was "from evidence to application", which included "to describe the effects of different clinical decision-making on the quality of medical care" and "cost-effectiveness ".

From year 2006 to 2010, the number of participating teams (from 10 to 77 teams) increased year by year, and every year there were new facilities participated. And the results of questionnaire showed that the rate of teams involved in the hospital's internal or regional campaigns increased from 22.5% to 56%, which indicated that to hold a national campaign did successfully evoke hospitals to provide reward to promote the application of EBM.

Conclusions:

It has been five years since the campaign has been started to hold, from the observation that every year there are new hospitals participated and the increasing number of participating groups, the effort input on EBM from facilities in Taiwan can be seen, and the promotion of incentive on EBM from a campaign mechanism can be understood from the self-assessment questionnaires of participants, but the sustainability of the learning outcomes will be subject to further evaluation and research.

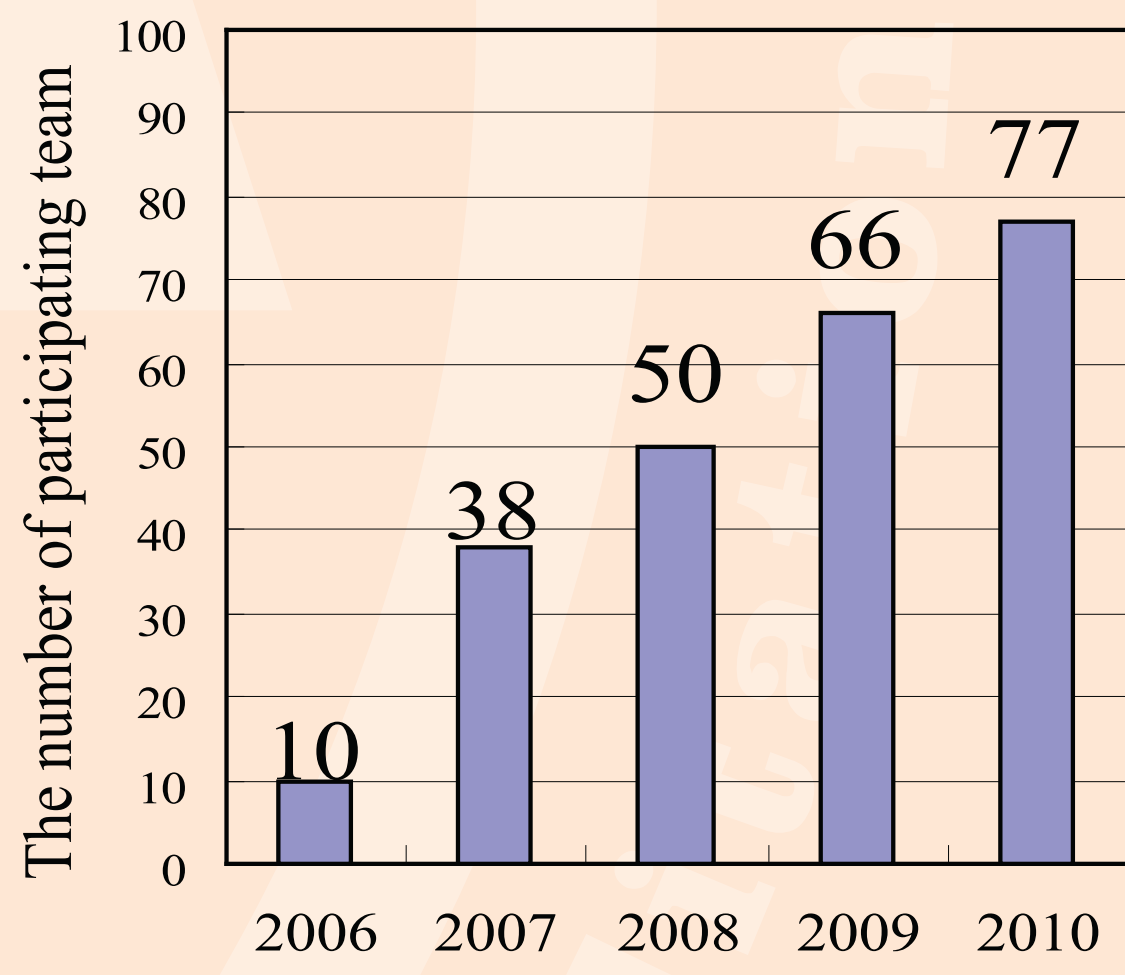
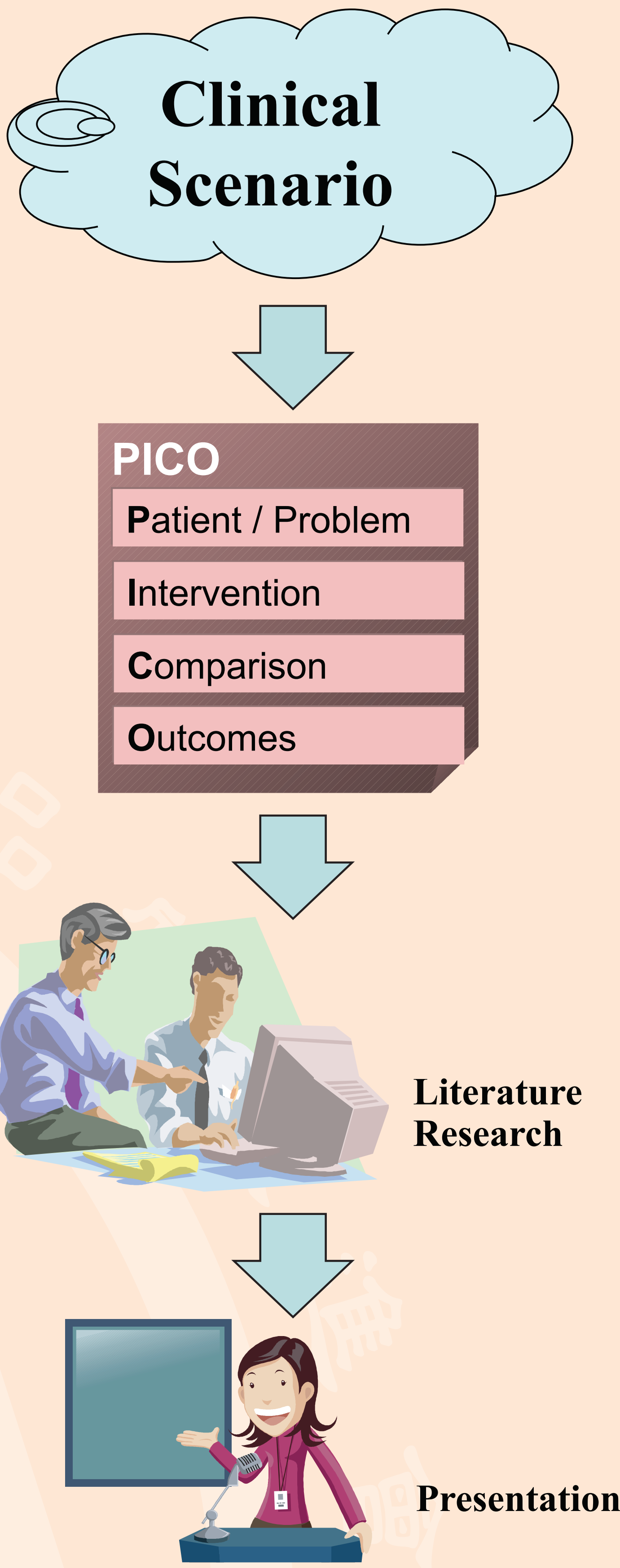


Figure 1.
The number of participating teams from year 2006 to 2010

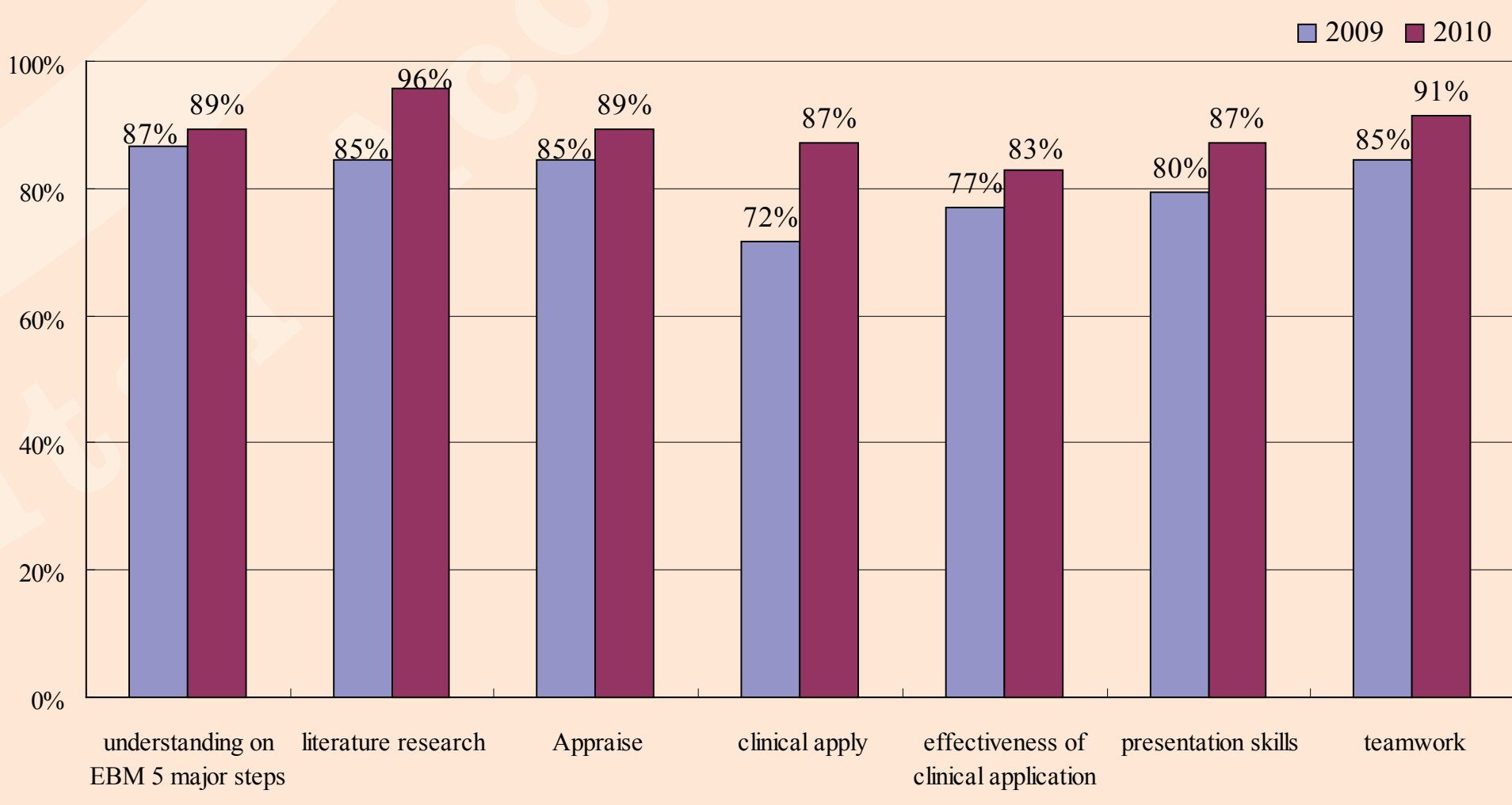


Figure 2.
The EBM skills learned after the competition by team self-assessment questionnaires form 2009 to 2010

