Student-Led Clinics: Building placement capacity and filling service gaps

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Alongside healthcare redesign, clinical placement providers face exigent placement capacity demands. This paper presents the Capacity Development Facilitator (CDF) model, and describes how a CDF-supported Sydney hospital addresses physiotherapy placement and healthcare service gaps with Student–Led Clinics (SLC), for Transitional Care, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Pre-Admission, and presents results. A Sydney metropolitan university, trialed the CDF-model in 4 Sydney hospitals. The study aims to investigate strategic innovations which increase placement capacity by providing a CDF whose key role is to identify, negotiate and expand placement capacity development opportunities within supported hospitals. Scoping interviews were conducted with physiotherapists, exploring placement characteristics including clinical supervision models and experiences, support, barriers, enablers, and strategic innovations to increase capacity. Data was analysed thematically. Student evaluation surveys were conducted and analysed with descriptive statistics, capturing experiences such as placement structure, support, barriers and enablers. Preliminary findings suggest that: (i) Physiotherapy SLCs can contribute to healthcare redesign service gaps at this CDF supported hospitals and (ii) SLCs potentially support building sustainable placement capacity. Prospectively, study results inform future SLC development, support, and identify barriers.

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