

The standardized Patients Database (SPDB)

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Background

For the purposes of educational training and assessment at the University Hospital Heidelberg we coordinate approx. 1100 SP sessions per year using a pool of 78 simulated patient role-players. The efficient management of the SPs and their sessions is a great challenge.

The SP-Database – especially designed for the management of SP-programs by the Umbrella Consortium Assessment Network (UCAN) – is part of the ItemManagementSystem (IMS) used by MediKIT since 2012. UCAN tailors the further development of the software to the needs of its users.

The poster aims to list selected management processes. It focuses on the calendar management component as well as the assistance with accounting and management of SPs. Experienced SP teaching specialists and coordinators evaluate each component of the SP-Database.

Features of SPDB

Calendar Management

- Chronological Overview of all appointments
- Categorisation and filtering of appointments into individual appointment categories
- Generation of notification E-Mails to SPs and SP coordinators
- Fast access to planning status and pending appointments
- Plausibility checks to avoid conflicting appointments

Advantages for the SP

- Direct access to all upcoming appointments
- Appointment request over personal e-mail account
- All required information (place, time, case, duration) for the SP to portray a role found in one place

Advantages for the SP teaching specialist / coordinator

- Links SP and all scenarios she ought to portray
- Overview of all appointments of one SP
- Management of SP personal data and specific criteria used to match with cases/scripts
- Overview of all SPs that are trained on a SP script/case

Billing

- Collects all encounters in one billing
- Excel export of billing information for further processing within the administration
- Detailed history of billing

Summary

Since its implementation SP trainers have been able to use the SP database to optimise the coordination of the program and use their resources more efficiently. The SP database has proved to be most efficient for planning and billing part of the SP program, reducing staff workload. The quick access to and overview of all data (appointments, SP profiles, scenarios, costs, SP etc) supports professional and effective cooperation between everyone involved (SP trainers, coordinators and role-players).

Outlook

Further developments are planned – in cooperation with UCAN – which will focus on the statistics of each SP providing a quick overview of the role-players and SP most commonly used. The statistics can also provide information on how often a particular SP has been booked and the costs incurred per department.