Introduction

Starting from 2016, there has been enhancement of undergraduate family medicine training in Hong Kong. Apart from learning the conventional consultation skill from family physicians, final year medical students enroll in a 2 week placement program which consists of chronic disease model and multi-disciplinary team collaboration such as physiotherapy, social workers etc. In New Territories West, we have arranged the training in the Tin Shui Wai community health centre (TSWCHC).

Objectives

To examine whether medical students perceived the program could help them to:
1) gain insight into the work of a primary health care doctor through working as a primary care team;
2) acquire skills in conducting consultations in the primary care setting;
3) learn problem-solving of common symptoms presenting to primary care;
4) manage common health problems presenting to primary care

Methodology

During this 2-week program, final year medical students work as a member of the primary health care team to carry out delegated responsibilities that could contribute to the service of the clinic, such as initial assessment of new patients, consultation under supervision and health education for patients. Moreover, medical students were offered opportunities to expose to various multi-disciplinary teams in primary care, e.g., Integrated Mental Health Programme for management of common mood problems, Risk Assessment Management clinic for chronic disease management, different allied health clinics e.g. fall clinic by occupational therapists for lifestyle management for patient in the primary care.

Result

There were 14 medical students enrolled in the program in TSWCHC.
In terms of access to facilities, 87.5% of medical students rated the physical setting of TSWCHC as good or excellent for training. Over 90% of medical students rated the supervision or support from clinic staff as good or excellent. Over 90% of medical students rated good or excellent in receiving constructive feedbacks for clinical case presentation. Overall, 81.3% of medical student rated the quality of teaching received during this placement as good or excellent.

In conclusion, this pilot review shows that multi-disciplinary training in the community Health Centre is benefit for medical students in learning family medicine.