100% of Physical Therapy Clinical Instructors Credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

The Problem

There was a problem ensuring consistency, effectivenness and competency for physical therapy clinical instructors. In order to be consitent with our mission of training, teaching and creating new knowledge, it was essential to ensure competency with all clinical education activities.

Aim/Goal

To support all eligible physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to attend the APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program. This course was developed by the APTA in 1997 to address issues of planning and preparing for PT and PTA students, to develop learning experiences, evaluation skills and strategies to provide effective feedback. In addition, information is included in managing the exceptional student, legal implications, and ADA requirements. An Assessment Center provides participants the opportunity to apply information learned.

The Team

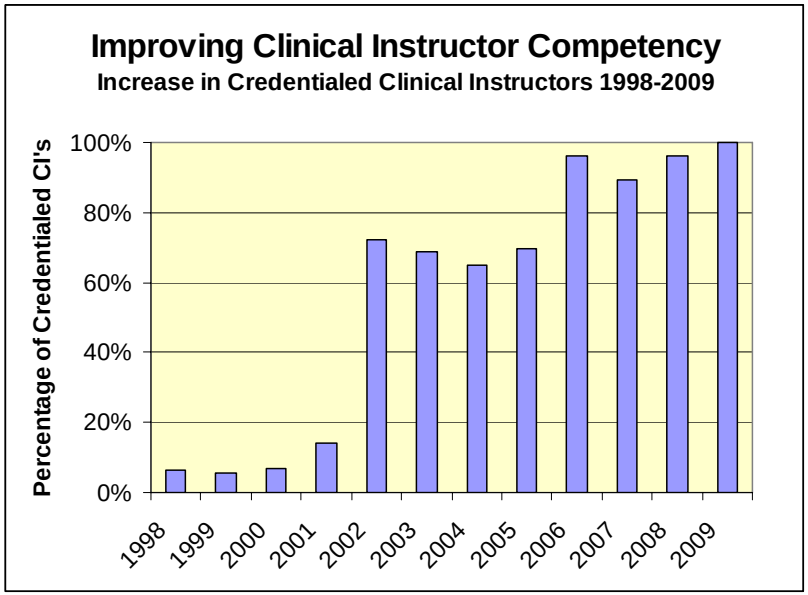
Joan A. Drevins, PT, MS, CCS
Deborah Adduci, PT
Kathleen Shillue, PT, DPT, OCS
Colleen Kennedy, PT, GCS
Pat Keck, OTR/L
Mark Dynan, PT, DPT, OCS
Jim Giebfried, PT, DPT
Cynthia Wagner, MS, CCC-SLP

The Interventions

- In 1998, Joan Drevins attended the APTA Clinical Instructor Trainer program, enabling her to teach the Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program.
- The Senior Staff of the Rehabilitation Department agreed and committed to the goal of supporting staff to attend this course.
- Continued monitoring to develop new employees to attend this course and become credentialed clinical instructors.

The Results/Progress to Date

In 2009, the goal was achieved. All 28 Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants, who are eligible to be Clinical Instructors, have satisfactorily completed the APTA Clinical Instructor Training Course. In July, the rehab department was recognized by the APTA for achieving 100% credentialing.



Lessons Learned

The BIDMC rehabilitation department is one of only eight departments, nationally, with 100% of the physical therapy staff being credentialed clinical instructors. This is an achievement that we will continue to attain, and new employees will be mentored to attend this course as soon as eligible.

Next Steps

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) has recently initiated a credentialing course for OT's. The OT staff at BIDMC wil be encouraged and supported to attend this course.

1. Attendance at the APTA Credentialing course is voluntary; however, the rehab department will continue to support and encourage staff to attend.
2. The APTA has developed an advanced Clinical Instructor course, and interested staff will be encouraged to attend that course.
3. Joan Drevins will maintain her status as a credentialed trainer, enabling her to teach the course.
4. This course is available to non PT's, although credentialing is not available. Joan will consider offering this course to other BIDMC disciplines.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | A teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School | The Silverman Institute For Healthcare Quality and Safety

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