A Patient-Informed Educational Initiative Improves Treat-to-Target Implementation, Imaging Use, and Patient Communication in Crohn's Disease Care Among NPs and PAs

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Background

Crohn's disease (CD) management continues to evolve, but gaps remain among gastroenterology nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician associates (PAs) in applying treat-to-target (T2T) strategies, using noninvasive imaging, and addressing quality-of-life concerns such as bowel urgency. A multimodal educational curriculum incorporated Smart Patients focus-group insights and a patient advocate to strengthen patient-centered communication and clinical decision-making.

Methods

A multimodal CME/CE curriculum included 7 small-group workshops, a live webinar, enduring webcast, downloadable slides, and 2 expert commentaries. Education focused on T2T guidance, noninvasive imaging, and patient-centered communication about bowel urgency. Smart Patients focus-group insights and a patient advocate informed the curriculum. Pre/post assessments and follow-up surveys measured competence, performance, and practice change.

Results

Education reached **13,827 learners** and produced statistically significant improvements across all 3 learning objectives (***P*** **<.001**). Competence increased in **T2T decision-making, noninvasive imaging, and patient-centered discussions of bowel urgency,** with gains sustained across live and enduring activities. **Among target learners, 92% intended to change practice or confirmed best practice,** most commonly through guideline implementation, team-based care improvements, and greater collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

Conclusion

This multimodal, patient-informed curriculum improved advanced practice provider (APP) competence and supported practice change in Crohn's disease management by integrating expert guidance, noninvasive imaging, and authentic patient perspectives.

Provided by Decera Clinical Education in partnership with Smart Patients.
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Education improved APP competence in Crohn's disease management

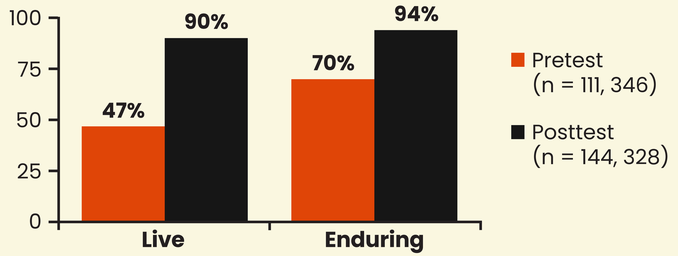
Target gastroenterology APP learners: preactivity to postactivity outcomes

Apply T2T guidance

Treatment response and advancement in moderate to severe Crohn's disease

Live **+43 points**

Enduring **+24 points**

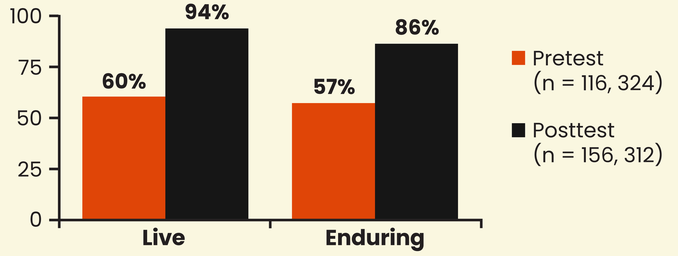


Use noninvasive imaging

Mucosal and transmural inflammation assessment

Live **+34 points**

Enduring **+29 points**

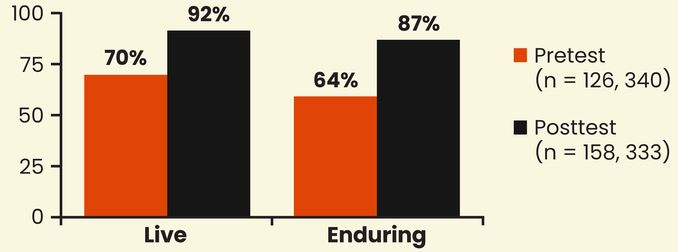


Normalize bowel urgency discussions

Evidence-based, empathetic communication strategies

Live **+22 points**

Enduring **+23 points**



Find this poster online

All 3 objectives demonstrated statistically significant postactivity improvement (*P* <.001)

Find this program on our website

Program Reach

2832
Target APP learners
161 live | 2671 enduring

13,827
Total learners
384 live | 13,443 enduring

16,708
Cumulative learnings
390 live | 16,318 enduring

2773
Multiactivity learners
serial exposure to content

Positive Impact

92%
Target learners intending to change or confirming best practice
(n = 410)

Target Learner Mix

Live target learners (n = 161)



Enduring target learners (n = 2671)



Top Practice Changes

- Apply latest guidelines or research
- Advocate/contribute to team-based care changes
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals to incorporate learning

Smart Patients

DECERA CLINICAL Education