CAPP in Hand: the collaborative production of the Critical Appraisal online training app (CAPP) to support evidence-based practice and decision-making

Critical appraisal is essential in helping clinicians and healthcare professionals examine research evidence, judge its trustworthiness and determine whether the research is true and relevant for their patients.

The Challenge
Clinicians, healthcare professionals and managers needed support to gain more knowledge and understanding of the critical appraisal process. Initially class-based workshops looked at addressing this gap however; attendance was low due to every day work pressures.

The Solution
The development of an online training app CAPP that is cost effective, providing flexibility and freedom for the user to train anywhere and access information at any time.

CAPP Development Timeline

- **2014**
  - Face-to-face ‘Critical Appraisal’ workshops delivered by ERY CCG and Hull University to ERY CCG staff members

- **2015/16**
  - ERY CCG works with Hull University to develop an e-based tool

- **2017**
  - Funding and agreement given to work with ORCHA to develop CAPP

- **2018/19**
  - Health Education England interested in CAPP
  - Version 2 peer reviewed by University of Hull academics and tested nationally by 5 expert NHS librarians.
  - Version 3 developed based on peer and expert feedback, ERY CCG and HEE discuss final version and national rollout of CAPP via HEE.

Enablers & Barriers

**IMPACT OF MAXIMISING ENABLERS**

- **Shared vision**
  - Motivation, momentum and resilience to overcome barriers

- **Collaborative working**
  - Supports the group’s skills set

- **Excellent communication**
  - Limitations identified and managed. Strengths maximised.

- **Keen to develop new skills**
  - Ensures the quality of CAPP and its usefulness

**IMPACT OF MINIMISING BARRIERS**

- **Initial lack of technical skills**
  - Identifying expert skills and sourcing specialist guidance, using existing networks, supported the timely development of CAPP

- **Not a priority for some**
  - Good motivation ensured some group members completed work outside normal hours

- **Complex funding systems**
  - Maximising one member’s funding knowledge/ skills on how to apply

- **Time consuming**
  - Full engagement of the team, accessing existing networks and communicating ideas minimised development complexities

The Outcome

Healthcare professionals, clinicians and managers are able to access essential critical appraisal information enabling them to examine clinical research evidence, eliminate bias and make valuable informed decisions on patient healthcare.