

New Technologies That Help Prepare Allied Health Students For NATABOC Certification Examination

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This presentation presents components of educational technology, specifically related to Internet usage, which assist student athletic trainers in studying and preparing for the National Athletic Trainer's Association's Board of Certification (NATABOC) certification examination. This presentation summarizes how The University of Alabama's Athletic Training Education program, in cooperation with the university's Instructional Technology department, implemented Webwhacker to develop an educational curriculum. This curriculum focuses on several skills the student athletic trainer must master before taking the NATABOC certification exam, specifically, the domains of health care administration and professional development/responsibility. A WWW search for viable pages related to the skills was accomplished and using WebWhacker software, the selected files were downloaded and organized into a study bank for students to utilize offline. For students and classroom instructors with or without network access, this is a fast, reliable and efficient way to deliver important lessons and related information. The primary advantages of this technological tool are learner flexibility, maximization of content, timeliness and availability, and content retention.

Database of Multimedia Learning Resources for Allied Health Professionals

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This project developed a visually appealing database reference source of multimedia products available to athletic trainers. The database includes references to video tapes and technology based software (educational and clinical). Using software, MicroSoft Windows Access, the database was developed to include reference information such as product description, abstract of product, author, vendor, and year product developed. Utilizing the NATABOC's domains of athletic training and anatomical structures as key words, the allied health professional can input three key words and access educational resources (videos and software) related to these content areas. The primary advantages of this database tool are content specific educational resources, availability, and the focus on NATABOC role delineation areas as related to anatomical structures. By developing this technological tool, the allied health professional can access specific content related to individualized interests.

Third Party Reimbursement for ATCs: An Investigation Of Attitudes From Certified Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists, And Physicians

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Third party reimbursement has become an important issue within the profession of athletic training. The NATA has established a reimbursement advisory group to determine outcomes, and a three year study is underway. The purpose of our study was to investigate the attitudes of athletic trainers, physical therapists, and physicians toward third party reimbursement. We mailed surveys to 30 athletic trainers, 30 physical therapists, and 30 physicians in West Virginia (n = 90). We hypothesized that athletic trainers would have the most positive attitudes towards reimbursement, whereas physical therapists would have the least positive attitudes, and physicians would fall somewhere in the middle. Each participant received a questionnaire and one self-addressed, stamped envelope. Briefly, the questionnaire asked whether ATCs should be able to charge for services rendered in a variety of settings (e.g., high school, clinic, etc.). Responses to each question were based on a modified Likert scale, (1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree). Using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA, $p < .05$), the results showed a significant difference between the groups. Contrary to our hypothesis, these data suggest that athletic trainers have similar attitudes as the physicians in that they were neither pro-reimbursement or anti-reimbursement. Physical therapists, however, have negative attitudes regarding reimbursement for athletic trainers. Age and practice location were non-significant factors. Third party reimbursement is an important issue for the profession and will become more significant as ATCs move from the traditional training room settings and into managed care and other varied settings.

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