

The Allied Health Educator & Data Manager: Using data to facilitate service delivery & patient outcomes.

Matthew Webb¹³

1 South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Locked Mail Bag 21, TAREN POINT NSW 2229,
matthew.webb@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Background: The ongoing use of ABF in healthcare settings has led to the development of standardised data sets for Allied Health (AH).

In 2011, the former South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS) implemented an AH data capture system within the Cerner eMR suite of products.

Data training programs, standardised data definitions and regular reports furthered learning & skills acquisition. This has built capacity in staff to understand their work in the world of ABF to justify efficient & effective healthcare.

Despite this, AH therapists are not data managers, and are often unsure how to use vast quantities of data to support change in their services.

Methods: A part-time AH therapists with data analysis skills was employed to become an *Allied Health Educator & Data Manager*. An AH therapist was chosen instead of a data analyst as they had a thorough knowledge of AH clinical services to:

- Improve therapist engagement.
- Promote a culture surrounding the use of data for service enhancement.
- Understand the quality use of data to answer clinical questions.
- Develop advanced training packages; empowering therapists to evaluate data regularly
- Provide educational presentations on the scope of data use.
- Support clinical & service change practices with data.

Results: The *AH Educator & Data Manger* provides direct therapist contact to evaluate the ability to use data to answer clinical questions. They facilitate the use of data by therapists and departments to improve service delivery, patient outcomes and experiences in SESLHD.

Discussion: The *AH Educator & Data Manger* is a valuable position within SESLHD. It is enhancing the use of data already collected by clinicians to shape services and answer clinical questions to improve health outcomes. The employment of an AH therapist has assisted in breaking down barriers in the use of data to improve services and patient outcomes.