Resident Driven Initiative to Cost Effectively Improve Reading Room Design

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Disclosure

• None
Purpose

• To redesign a main reading room in a community teaching hospital without institutional funding.

• Goal for improvement in clinical and educational workflow which was considered hampered by the existing compartmentalized design.
Materials/Methods

• The initiative was resident driven with support from the Chair/Program Director.

• The main reading room houses a majority of the department reading stations. The total available space determined with attention to incorporating variable sizes of workstation configuration including two large 6 and 8 monitor stations as part of a Radiology Workspace Laboratory Project.

• The new design goal was to provide the largest possible common space and adding a station (for a total of 13).
Materials/Methods

• A team of volunteer residents carried out the job on a weekend day, off hours to minimize disturbance to work flow.

• After all residents and staff had utilized the new space a survey was distributed to assess the impact and necessary adjustments.
The old reading room design
Results

The survey responses showed that the new design improved or significantly improved the following categories:

- Space available per station (81%)
- Communication between residents and attendings (76%)
- Educational experience (76%)
- Accessibility for clinicians and ancillary staff (86%)
- Temperature and air distribution (60%)
Results

• General comfort level (71%)
• Modern and professional look of the reading room (95%)

The only negative response was increased noise level (62% worse) which is being addressed.
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Significantly worse</th>
<th>Worse</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>Improved</th>
<th>Significantly improved</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Space available per station</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication between residents and attendings</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational impact</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility for clinicians and ancillary staff</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Significantly worse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temperature and air distribution</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General comfort level</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern and professional look of the reading room</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise level</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• With initiative and elbow grease complaints can be channeled into solutions.

• We demonstrate a resident initiative resulting in marked improvement in workspace design.

• At no institutional cost a more modern, professional, open, welcoming, spacious, collaborative, and inviting reading room was created.

• The new design facilitates communication between residents, colleagues, ancillary staff, and referring providers.
Conclusions

• There has been significant positive impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of the radiologist, and ultimately patient care.
• This may be difficult to translate into an ROI for an institution which may otherwise not provide financial support.
• Motivated residents can achieve great goals funded by enthusiasm and determination.