**App vs. Web-Based Resident Evaluations: Can “Swiping Right” Impact Compliance & Quality?**

Christopher Conley MD, Shivali Mukerji MS, Carolina Blotte MD, Bishoi Nassef MD
Department of Anesthesiology, Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine

### Preliminary Results

After the first month of the trial, we see a 21.5% completion rate for the App arm of the study and a 28.7% completion rate for the Web-based arm of the study. Of the completed responses, 17.6% of App responses and 31% of web-based surveys were straightlined. Moreover, 62% of web-based surveys had comments along with responses, but only 23.5% of iPhone surveys had comments along with responses.

### The Problem: Noncompliance & “Straightlining”

When performing resident evaluations where a multiple questions are asked upon on a numerical scale, evaluators may engage in “Straightlining,” selecting the same response/numerical answer for a number of questions without paying attention to the individual answers. This skews the data points, rendering it less useful to learners who would, ideally, be able to use their scores as feedback guiding them toward improvement. Additionally, Time demands and survey fatigue may lead teaching faculty to either A) not complete evaluations or B) complete them hastily and inaccurately.

### The Question?

Does compliance with evaluations and straightlining improve when using an app based interface of the evaluation.

### The Hope: Can Technology Help?

The convenience of having evaluations accessible by phone may increase compliance with evaluations and completion rate. By compelling the evaluator to view only one possible answer at a time, the user may better consider the narrative within each column and choose the most appropriate answer.

### Methods:

Faculty anesthesiologists are randomized into two groups. In one group, the attendings only complete daily resident evaluations using our web-based form, while the experimental group completes their evaluations through an app-based interface. The study will last 8 months, with all participants crossing over to the alternate interface at the 4 month mark. Participants’ completion rates will be followed, and their responses within the surveys analyzed.

### References: