

eLearning: Because Travel is a Hassle

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The world that we live in today is a very different place than it was just ten years ago, and nobody understands that better than folks tapped into the travel industry. Whereas traveling by airplane used to be a fairly simple matter of booking a flight and showing up at the airport, these days, getting anywhere by plane is much more of a production. Not only have air travel prices risen tremendously over the past number of years, but worse yet, much of the convenience that was once inherent in flying has been replaced by packing restrictions, lengthy check-in procedures, and constant air traffic delays.

Of course, air travel isn't the only option for getting from one place to another within the continental United States, but given the ever-fluctuating nature of gas prices, hopping in the car and taking a road trip isn't always as cost-effective as some would otherwise think. Even rail travel within the country has its drawbacks, as limited scheduling and inconvenient routes can turn what would normally be a short trip into a long, drawn-out hassle.

Considering the fact that the travel industry today certainly sports its fair share of flaws, it's surprising that medical conferences and face-to-face training courses continue to be so

popular. Whereas physicians could, in years past, look forward to the idea of traveling to a new locale to attend professional seminars, these days, taking part in such events is, in the eyes of many, nothing short of a nightmare.

Logistics aside, the cost of sending medical professionals to training classes and seminars is greater today than ever before. While airline fees, hotel accommodations, and per diem allowances have always been a given, anyone traveling today is bound to be subject to a host of unexpected expenses, from fuel surcharges to mandatory baggage fees. And though it's sometimes possible to cut costs by having conference attendees do their own driving, all of those hours spent behind the wheel are, for those navigating, nothing but unproductive time.

This is precisely why eLearning is such a valuable tool when it comes to professional training and advancement within the medical field. From electronic health record software to mobile patient monitoring devices, these days, physicians and their employees can learn to use just about any tool simply by logging onto their computers. Not only is eLearning an extremely convenient option for those with busy schedules who don't actually have the time to travel, it is also a far

more cost-effective alternative to in-person training. With eLearning, practitioners no longer have to stretch their budgets to cover the expenses associated with employee travel; instead, they can simply invest in the right learning management systems and allow those in need of training to get the education they need in a manner that suits their schedules.

Of course, for those who tend to look forward to in-person training sessions and conferences, eLearning may seem like a less appealing option than

mingling with like-minded professionals and sneaking in those stray rounds of golf. On the other hand, for folks whose lives are family-oriented or just plain hectic enough to begin with, the ability to avoid the hassle and disruption of travel is bound to be met with much gratitude. After all, ongoing education has always been an essential component of excelling within the medical field; but thanks to eLearning, what was typically an onerous and expensive prospect has suddenly become a lot less burdensome.