Building and assessing a national online curriculum on “The Clinical Assessment of Substance Use Disorders”

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The NIDA module

In 2007, Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) and the University of Pennsylvania (PENN) became a NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) Center of Excellence for Physician Information – with the task to build a national on-line curriculum on Substance Use Disorder issues.

It was implied that the design of the curriculum should derive from our successful “doc.com” series: a set of 41 media-rich on-line modules for the teaching and learning of medical communication skills that was jointly produced by DUCOM and the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare (AACH).
The module is freely accessible at the following URLs:
- http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/nida
- http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/doccom
- local
The Clinical Assessment of Substance Use Disorders

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On-line module by Christof J. Daetwyler, MD

This media-rich, on-line module was created through the collaborative efforts of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Drexel University College of Medicine, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as part of NIDA's Centers of Excellence for The Clinical Assessment of Substance Use Disorders - by Barbara A. Schindler MD and Ted Parran MD

For additional information or assistance, please contact nidamed@nida.nih.gov
Measuring the Effectiveness...

When the first module on “The Clinical Assessment of Substance Use Disorders” was presented to NIDA in 2009, it made such an impression that NIDA decided to fund a research study on the efficacy of the module with enough money to set up a careful study for measuring not only the effect of our learning intervention on factual knowledge, but also on attitude change. The study is being conducted jointly by DUCOM and PENN, results will be published in 2013.
WebINTERVIEW with Fred Smith

INFORMATION for the ASSESSEE: You are about to see Fred Smith, a 48-yr. old man, for the first time. His previous physician retired and he wants you to be his new doctor. From the brief questionnaire that he filled out in your waiting room, you know that he is a mechanic for the City of Philadelphia. He has been on disability for the last nine months, since he slipped on an oil slick at work injuring his back. Since then he has seen several specialists and primary care physicians, has had x-ray and CT studies which confirm moderate arthritis in his LS spine, without neural foraminal impingement, and some mild spinal stenosis. He has had several steroid injections, none of which have helped his pain for more than 10 days to two weeks. He has been receiving a variety of pain meds from his previous physician, including Percocet. He has been a pack a day smoker since age 18 and drinks socially. He is married and has three grown children.

Temperature: 97.6°oral Blood Pressure: 130/70 Pulse: 92, regular Respiratory Rate: 18
WebINTERVIEW with Fred Smith

The SP’s ROLE (the SP knows this, but the learner does not):
Immediately after the accident, you went to see your primary care physician who prescribed Flexeril and Motrin for the pain. After a month of no improvement, you returned to your family doctor, who sent you to see an orthopedist. The orthopedist told you that he didn’t think surgery would be helpful now but might be a viable option in the future and sent you for physical therapy. When that didn’t seem to help you returned to your primary care physician, who then prescribed Neurontin 300 3x/day. After another month of no relief, you were referred to a pain specialist who gave you a shot and 10 Fentanyl patches every two months. Again, you returned to your primary care physician and reported no improvement. The PCP then prescribed Percocet 10/650mg 1-2x/day. The Percocet seemed to help a little, but you requested an increase after a month and the physician upped the dose to 3x/day for a month and then 4x/day for the next month. After the steady increases, the physician was not comfortable increasing the Percocet dose any more so you sought out another doctor you heard about in Camden, NJ and got another prescription for Percocet from him. (You pay for it so your insurance won’t pick up that you are getting two prescriptions of narcotics.) Currently, you are taking the Percocet up to 8 tabs/day.
Here you can evaluate the student’s WebInterview. Use the skills checklist on the right to score and mark when the student implements a skill.

When you give feedback to the student, you can refer back to these marked times in the interview for the student to view.

When you are ready to give feedback, send the following URL to the student and re-open this evaluation. The student will then be able to connect using the URL, and you can proceed with giving feedback:
Thank you!

Free access to the learning module @
http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/nida/