

Writing and Working with Cases

Step 1

Determine points or learning objectives that you are trying to demonstrate. This can be a concept (Krebs Cycle, metabolic diseases, jaundice, COPD, etc)

Step 2

Decide if this can be illustrated with a single case or are multiple cases needed.

Step 3

Choose a case based on clinical experience or that of others. This is not essential, but if based on a personal experience rather than totally made up, it can be more realistic and more human when presented to the students.

Step 4

Outline the case, as you might encounter it in a clinical setting. This may include steps to point out important history, physical exam, laboratory, imaging or other findings. This should also include thought provoking questions that address the learning objectives.

Step 5

Further refine step 4, including tables, images, lab values, details of history, basic science, pathology, anatomy, pharmacology and pathophysiology behind the process (where appropriate).

Step 6

With our integrated curriculum, is there any Social, psychological, Legal etc. points that could be addressed with this case? This may be something that can be done in conjunction with the leaders for that thread.

Six Steps for Creating an Effective Case Study

Step 1. Identify the Learners and Write Educational Objectives

Step 2. Describe the Patient and Develop Sufficient Case Detail

Step 3. Focus the Learner on Discrete Clinical Decision Points

Step 4. Present Viable Options at Decision Points

Step 5. Analyze Options and Select One Course of Action

Step 6. Introduce New Information and Continue to Next Clinical Decision Point

Additional Resources

- http://www.go2itech.org/HTML/CM08/toolkit/tools/print/casebased/Developing_Clinical_Case_Studies.pdf
- Indian Univ Teaching the Case Method Page
http://teaching.iub.edu/wrapper_big.php?section_id=case
- Florida State U, Pep and Using Cases for Teaching
<http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=FacultyDevelopment.cases>