

“10 Minute Topics” – Optimising student learning whilst on clinical placement

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Introduction & Aim

Doctors in our Sexual Health department felt that visiting students were frequently asked to sit out of a consultation by patients due to the sensitive nature of these particular consultations.

This is not a unique issue to our department, with previous research having shown that over the course of a year up to 86% of students had been refused from a patient interaction whilst on *any* clinical placement, with this number being even higher whilst on an Obstetric and Gynaecology placement (1).

As students are often with us for just 1-2 days, and as our standard appointment length is 30 minutes, we recognised that being asked to sit out of even one appointment could result in a student losing a significant amount of learning time. Of course this impact on their learning could then be compounded by multiple patients asking them to sit out, or patients not attending their appointment.

With this in mind, our aim was to create learning resources that students could use during these periods of inactivity. The resources needed to be short enough that they could be completed by a student before rejoining the clinic for the next patient. We also wanted the topics to cover the full range of clinics that our department runs, as we knew that students often did not have enough time with us to sit in on every clinic, and we felt this was a useful opportunity for students to learn what else we do in the Sexual Health department.

Methodology

We created 9 learning resources that students could access using their phones via QR codes. We called these resources “10-Minute Topics”.

These resources were a mix of mini tutorials, case scenarios and quizzes, with each one designed to take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

They covered a variety of topics relevant to Sexual Health e.g. contraception, abortion care and Genitourinary Medicine.

The reception team were asked to give every student arriving for their placement an A4 sheet with the relevant QR codes.

At the bottom of the sheet we included a request for students to provide feedback on the resources.

Results

Clinicians in the department have been very positive about the so-called '10-Minute Topics' and have been directing students to the resource when they are in the department.

Early student feedback has also been positive, they have said they have found the resources to be:

- “**Very much**” appreciated as a resource
- “**Just right**” in length
- “**Comprehensive**”, with no topics that they felt had not been included

They also found the information about local departmental pathways “**really useful**” as this had not been covered in previous teaching.

They felt the resources should be advertised more to future students visiting the department.

Sexual Health 10 Minute Topics

Welcome to the Sexual Health Department, we appreciate that your time with us is limited and you may not see everything that we do here within that time. If you find that you have a spare 10(ish) minutes during your time with us, have a look at any of the topics below that you might not have been able to see in person.

Please note they have been designed to be best viewed via mobile rather than iPad/laptop.

If any of these topics generates any questions, please do ask us!



These are new resources that we are piloting and your feedback will help us to improve the experience for those with use next.

Please could you scan this feedback code before your placement ends? Thank you!



Conclusion

We have found that this resource was easy to create and valued by both staff and students.

We think it achieves our aim of providing students with short, easily digestible learning resources that can be dipped in and out of during clinics when patients do not consent to a student sitting in on their appointment.

We intend to continue to hand out the 10-Minute Topics to students visiting the department. We will continue to get our reception team to hand this out to all students upon arrival for the day, and encourage them to use it as needed.

We also intend to update and add to the bank of resources over time and will use ongoing student feedback to guide the creation of new topics.

References

- 1) Bremer KC, Shaffer SA, Fisher SJ. Project to decrease medical student refusal in the Obstetric and Gynecology Clinic at the University of Iowa. Proceedings in Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2018 Nov 1;8(3).



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