MHD Small Group “Asking a Clinical Question” Assignment

Each student will be participate in the “Asking a Clinical Question” assignment during the MHD small group sessions.

The goal of this assignment is for each student to have the opportunity to:

Develop a specific, answerable question which arises during the small group case discussions
Perform a search of the medical literature for an answer to the question
Identify the type of resource used to answer the question.
Share the information to the question with small group colleagues and facilitator
Receive feedback on the information-seeking strategy

This exercise will simulate what you will be doing on a regular basis during your clinical clerkships and beyond.

Process

Each student will be assigned a session during which they will develop a specific answerable question which arises during the small group case discussion. This is a question regarding one of your small group case “patients”.

Focus on developing a foreground question about the type of decision you will need to make as a clinician. The question could focus on an aspect such as diagnostic testing, drug therapy, specific intervention, risk factor, or prognosis related to the patient’s disease process.

After the session, the student will be required to “search” for an answer to the question.

This will entail identifying appropriate information sources to seek an answer to the question.

Recall that during your PCM-1 and MCBG courses you were provided with guidance on a number of evidence based primary resources including the National Library of Medicine “Medline” database using the Pub Med search engine and Clinical Queries (via PubMed). You were also informed of “point of care” resources, such as Up-To-Date.

Perform your search and identify no more than 2-3 references that helped answer your question.
Identify the type of reference(s) that you have chosen. Are they primary research studies, meta-analyses, review articles? Are they point of care references? Other?

During your next scheduled small group session, at the beginning of the session, share the information to the question that you found and the resources and references that you used to answer them.

Be prepared to answer questions regarding your search strategy and why you selected the references that you did to answer the question.

This discussion should take no more than 5-10 minutes.

Summary

As a summary provide a written response to the following:

What is your specific answerable question?

Describe your search strategy.

Print out the first page of each reference (remember no more than 2-3 references) and identify the types of references you chose.

Turn in your written summary to Rina in the Educational Affairs Office after the small group session.

Failure to complete this assignment during the small group session and turn in the written summary will result in a “Does Not Meet Expectations” on the MHD Small Group “Practice Based Learning and Improvement” Competency.