

MHD Small Group “Asking a Clinical Question” Assignment

Each student will 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 pertinent clinical question based on discussion during the small group case discussions
- Identify and demonstrate the use of information technology to access accurate and reliable on-line medical information
- Demonstrate basic awareness and early skills in appraisal of both the sources and content of medical information

This exercise will simulate what students will be doing on a regular basis during your clinical clerkships and for the rest of your careers as physicians

Process

- a) Each student has been assigned a session during which they, with assistance from their peers and facilitator, will develop a relevant 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 clear clinical 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. If your question is a broad “background” question – be sure to identify it as such.

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

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 the use of information technology to access accurate and reliable medical information. Take this opportunity to review the information from these sessions.

- b) Identify pertinent information resources to answer your question.

To do this decide what kind of literature you need to answer your question?

For example, is your question broad (topic overview for foundational learning) or focused (seeking more discrete information on a topic)?

Textbook to gain foundational knowledge?

Synthesized information resources?

Review articles?
Primary research?

- c) Determine how you will you best find the appropriate resources?
-Textbook collections through the Health Sciences Library (Access Medicine, Clinical Key, LWW Health Library, LWW Clerkship Library or other collection?)
-Primary research sources such as Pub Med or PubMed Clinical Queries?

NOTE using "Google" searches is not acceptable for this assignment

- d) What "key words" will you use for your search and what filters will you use to focus the retrieval?
- e) Identify the type(s) of resource(s) you used to answer the question

Textbook Chapter? Textbook Section?

If an article – what type of article is it? If a primary research article, what kind of study design?

- f) Evaluate the information resource(s) used to answer the questions

Recall the CRAAP criteria for evaluating information resources

Developed by Sarah Blakeslee MLS, Meriam Library, University of California Chico.

- **Currency:** *The timeliness of the information*
 - Is there a creation date? How often is it updated? Is there a revision date?
- **Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs*
 - Is the information provided at the appropriate level and depth?
 - Is the information written for students, professionals or the general public?
(note: information geared to the general public should NOT be used for this simulation)
- **Authority:** *The source of the information*
 - Is the author name and/or source with a revision/edit available?
 - Is contact information to verify the author/editor prominently available?
- **Accuracy:** *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content*
 - Is the information supported by evidence? Is the information error free?
- **Purpose:** *The reason the information exists*
 - Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain? Is the information fact or opinion
Is the content bias free?
 - Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear

- g) Share the information and your information-seeking strategy with your small group colleagues and facilitator at the beginning of the next small group session. When sharing

please include why you chose the resource, the strategy you used to access the information, and if the information you found answered the clinical question

- h) 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 during the small group session

Asking a Clinical Question Summary

Students will provide a written response to the following:

- What is the question?
- Is this a broad background question or a focused clinical question?
- What strategy did you use to find appropriate resources to answer the question? Be specific.
Textbook Collection: (Access Medicine, Clinical Key, LWW Health Library or LWW Clerkship Library or other collection
Pub Med, Clinical Queries, Med Gen
"Google" searches are not acceptable
- Why did you use this search strategy?
- What search terms did you use?
- Cite 1-3 resources you identified to answer your question.
Provide a copy of the 1st page of each
- What kind of resources are they?
- Why did you select this/these type(s) of resources?
Resources directed to the general public are not acceptable
- Evaluate the quality of these resources in answering the question.
- Concise "answer" to your question

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

The summary will be reviewed by a faculty member.

Faculty Assessment – Practice Based Learning and Improvement Competency

- Meets Expectations
- Meets Expectations with Concerns

Does not Meet Expectations

Failure to complete this assignment, present during the small group session, turn in the written summary, and/or provide a thoughtful approach to the search for answering the formulated question will result in a “Does Not Meet Expectations” on the MHD Small Group “Practice Based Learning and Improvement” Competency