

Introduction

In order to assure our patients are cared for safely it is important that every member of the health care team be knowledgeable, trustworthy, professional and communicate critical information in a timely and effective manner. WISE-OnCall, an online program developed at NYU to help transitioning medical students and new residents develop the clinical reasoning skills that are fundamental to assessing and managing common clinical problems such as abdominal pain, chest pain, fever and hypotension.

Each module begins with a review of the common conditions that may precipitate the symptom or physical finding being discussed. Distinguishing characteristics of each are discussed and checklists are designed to help the learner sort through the various conditions that could be responsible for the presentation. A case presentation shows how a resident would gather information from the nurse, the patient, the medical record and diagnostic tests to arrive at a correct diagnosis and management plan. The last section is a series of practice cases for the learner to test their clinical reasoning skills.

Modules

Hypotension



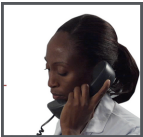
Hypotension and Shock discusses the physiology of blood pressure control and provides guidelines to differentiating among the various types of shock and identifying the underlying cause. The module emphasizes the importance of early recognition and escalation to superiors.

Acute Chest Pain



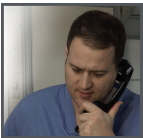
Acute chest pain is always of concern for possible myocardial infarction. Other causes such as pulmonary embolism, tamponade, pneumonia and aortic dissection are equally dangerous and too often underdiagnosed. This module addresses the approach to early diagnosis and management.

Lower Extremity Pain



Managing the patient with the complaint of lower extremity pain is critical as some of the causes such as acute arterial occlusion, deep vein thrombosis and compartment syndrome can be limb threatening if not life threatening. Urgent assessment and escalation is critical to successful management.

Oliguria



The oliguria module covers the pre renal, renal and post renal causes and the appropriate bedside and laboratory measures that can help determine the underlying cause. As in each of the modules, a dramatization of how a resident would assess and manage a typical patient is provided.

Abdominal Pain



Abdominal pain, one of the most common medical complaints can be perplexing to even the skilled clinician. This module provides an overview of the common causes and guidelines for diagnosis and early management.



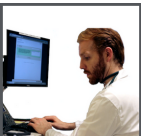
Dyspnea

Dyspnea has a multitude of causes including cardiac, pulmonary, systemic, neurogenic and psychiatric. Each, including the underlying medical conditions is discussed in the review section. Practice cases in each of the modules provide an opportunity for the learner to tests their clinical skills.



Hypertension

Hypertension, although one of the most common conditions among adults, is at the same time a major cause of stroke and myocardial infarction. Knowing when and how to treat the patient with urgent or emergent hypertension is a skill every resident should have.



Documentation for Patient Safety

Accurate and timely documentation in the medical record is not only important to the safety and quality of care of a patient, medical records must be maintained for medical legal, public health and reimbursement purposes. This module addresses these issues along with guidelines for creating hospital and outpatient notes.



Acute Pain Management

This module provides a quick reference to the common medications used to manage acute pain, comparing the relative strengths, modes of administration, side effects and contraindications. Knowing how to safely manage acute pain is essential for all practitioners.



Certifying a Death

Most every clinician can share an experience of how unprepared he or she was for addressing the issues related to the death of a patient. This module discusses all aspects from pronouncing a death to completing a death certificate. The module addresses the management of the bereaving family as well as the legal, religious, and public health issues related to a death.



Fever and Sepsis

Fever is one of the most common patient presentations stemming from a vast number of infectious and non-infectious causes. Recognizing sepsis from the many more benign causes of fever is the focus of this module. Prompt diagnosis and treatment of sepsis is often the difference between life and death. As such, it is critical that every physician recognize the early signs of sepsis and initiate management, often before the diagnosis is certain. This module has special sections on obstetrical, pediatric and post-operative fevers.



Loss of Consciousness

Coming upon an individual who has lost consciousness is an experience every physician will encounter in their career. Rapid assessment and management is critical to a successful outcome. This module addresses the many underlying causes ranging from cardiac arrest to vasovagal syncope, and provides guidelines for evaluating an unconscious individual, initial response and when consciousness has returned, what follow-up testing is indicated.