DISCUSSION TOPICS

The aim of these worksheets is to allow you to examine five aspects of the practice of medicine in the context of primary care, enabling a greater understanding of its structure, differences, implications and uncertainties. Wider aspects of Public Health and Occupational / Environmental Health will be considered in addition to specific unique General Practice issues.

The format required for each topic sheet is that of brief short notes of no more than 200 words. All sheets will be used to inform discussion in the final seminar of block teaching and may be reviewed by your tutor.

During the Seminar students should be prepared to lead discussion on one of the topic areas with a short presentation based on their notes (approximately 4 minutes) All the group will be expected to contribute to the more general facilitated discussion.

Objectives

By the end of the attachment the student will be able to:

- Discuss in detail, with the aid of their notes various aspects of the Discussion topics
- Describe the impact of these areas on the organisation and delivery of primary care from the population and individual patient perspective
- Demonstrate elements of a literature search in the preparation of the worksheets

Introduction

Primary Care has a number of unique issues that are central to its function and which differ greatly in their organization and from that of hospital practice. The Practice Discussion Topics will allow you to explore these differences, looking at the ways in which the five issues are different, and what benefits and/or drawbacks can be identified in the Primary Care setting. The five topic areas are:

1. Reflections on Practice Demographics
2. Occupational aspects of cases you have seen
3. Evidence Based practice
4. Evaluation in practice
5. Medical Humanities
6. New Topics Pilot

Guidelines for Completion of Worksheets

Each topic has a specific set of objectives that should form the outline structure of the short notes. These are:

1. The Practice and the Population it serves
   The size and characteristics of the practice population is a major determinant of the health of the practice’s population and of its needs and demands for health care. You are asked to describe your practice and discuss the impact the demography of the practice has on its requirement for health care.

2. Occupational health issues in Primary Care
   Using cases you have seen in your attachment, you will discuss the effect of work on health and health on work

3. Evidence based practice
   You are asked to describe one clinical guideline that is used in the practice and the evidence for the effectiveness of this guideline

4. Evaluation in practice
   Describe any evaluation of health care that goes on in the practice such as audit or review. Think about the problems that arise in screening healthy population.

5. Medical Humanities in Primary Care
   This topic requires you to bring along a work from the Arts which has significance to you.

6. We will be piloting some new and interesting discussion topics over the year. The tutor might introduce these during the session as an additional resource for discussion.

Guidelines for Seminar

Students are required to attend and may be expected to present at least one of the topics using their notes. The presentation is expected to be brief and succinct. Each seminar is usually facilitated by two tutors who will bring along additional material.

In general:

- Provide basic information on your topic.
- Respond to the stated objectives of your topic
- Consider advantages and disadvantages of the system for practice and patient, and possibly also consider the topic from at least some of the following angles:
  - Consider ways in which other practices may be managing this topic,
  - Consider international alternatives for managing this topic.
- Give your personal views as well as a consensus view.

Guidelines for research:

- Allow the equivalent of approximately one working day to research and prepare the topics.
- Make use of the reference books in your practice library.
- Use the department library and/or the Medical School/Raigmore Hospital Post-Graduate Centre library.
- Contact personnel other than those within your practice if appropriate (e.g. Health Board).
- Talk to GPs and other members of practice team where appropriate as well as talking to patients.
Practice Population

Please give a brief description of your practice including the following characteristics:

- Size of practice population – is it increasing or decreasing?
- Urban or rural or both.
- A description of the age and sex breakdown – is it an ‘old’ or a ‘young’ practice population?
- Socio-economic characteristics – deprivation, employment, housing etc.
- Any relevant geographical features, e.g. nearby ski slopes, island community.
- Any other relevant features, e.g. community hospital, nursing homes, Royal Family.
- Relevant features of the primary care staff, e.g. GP with a Special Interest (GPwSI) in dermatology, nurse practitioners, etc.
- Does the practice population differ significantly from neighbouring practices?

Does the demography of the practice population you have described have implications for the need and demand for healthcare?

Think about how you would word an advert for a GP vacancy for this practice.
A number of factors influence a person's ability to work.

In relation to a case you have encountered in primary care, identify the key issues that influenced fitness for work, with regards to the illness, its treatment and demands of the job.

Work can affect your health.

Please describe a case you have encountered where work or the workplace has affected the patient's health. Describe the presentation and management of the case and highlight the ethical issues involved.
Evidence Based Practice

Describe one clinical guideline used in the Practice. Who published it, when was it published and what does it recommend?

What evidence was the guideline based upon? Consider the level of evidence supported by the guidelines and the process by which the evidence was reviewed.

How was the guideline being implemented? Did all practitioners use it; was it consistently implemented in all aspects? If not, why not?

Have you seen doctors communicating risk and uncertainty to patients eg numbers needed to treat and how was this accomplished?
1. How is healthcare monitored and evaluated in your practice?

2. Describe an audit process that you have observed in the practice. Include issues of standard setting and feedback to changing practice, who was involved, how regularly was progress assessed?

3. What problems arise in screening healthy people?
Medical Humanities and Primary Care

For this section we want you to bring along a synopsis of a poem, novel, short story or film (no DVDs please) that has some relationship to health and illness. It could also be a piece of music, or visual art e.g. this may be a patient's description of a critical diagnosis

Your tutor will facilitate a discussion on your reflections on these in relation