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The acute illness course

Original Citation

Garside, Joanne and Prescott, Stephen (2007) The acute illness course. In: Spring Meeting of the Society for Acute Medicine, 26-27 April 2007, Halifax, UK. (Unpublished)

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ACUTE ILLNESS COURSE

BSc (Hons) or Certificate in Professional Studies

Background

The NHS has seen many changes over the last few decades. Staff on general wards are now caring for patients who traditionally were managed on high dependency settings.

Healthcare practitioners working on general wards are required to have more developed knowledge and skills to apply to their rapidly changing workload however; 'Suboptimal care of severely ill patients before admission to intensive care was common.' (McQuillan et al, 1998, p1857).

The University of Huddersfield have responded by providing a 60 credit honours level course for staff working on general wards, which includes the following two modules:

Module HHN 1243: Assessment, care and management of an Acutely Ill Patient (40 credits)



The Students are given the opportunity to promote a deeper understanding of the evidence-based practice of acutely ill patients, building on existing knowledge.

Timetabled sessions include:

- ❑ Assessment of an acutely ill patients advocating ABCDE approach
- ❑ Peri & cardiac arrest
- ❑ Arterial blood gases
- ❑ ECG's
- ❑ Assessment, care & management of systematic illnesses, e.g. respiratory, cardiac, Gastro-intestinal acute conditions.



Module HHN 1242 Professional Principles underpinning Acute Clinical Practice (20 credits)

The Students are given the opportunity to explore, analyse & debate current and underpinning healthcare issues and apply these issues to their own clinical practice.

Timetabled sessions include:

- ❑ Ethical & Legal dilemmas
- ❑ Breaking bad news
- ❑ Critical thinking
- ❑ Accountability



Mid Term evaluation comments include:

Confidence building, '...especially when dealing with poorly patients'.

'I didn't realise how much I didn't know'

'Thoroughly enjoying and learning lots'

Able to influence topics discussed'

For further details contact course leaders:

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References

McQuillan Peter et al (1998) *Confidential inquiry into quality of care before admission to intensive care* BMJ, Vol. 316, 20 June 1998, pp1853-1858



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