

Patient cases

Patient cases can significantly improve the quality of internships by providing the students with realistic, complex scenarios that enhance their clinical reasoning, decision-making, and patient care skills. Additionally, discussing patient cases encourages collaboration and communication among students and with their instructors, promoting a deeper understanding of inter-professional roles and responsibilities. It also highlights the importance of considering ethical, cultural, and personal factors in patient care. Overall, patient cases offer a rich, immersive learning experience that bridges the gap between classroom learning and clinical practice, ultimately enhancing the educational value of internships for future healthcare professionals.



How:

Objective; to guide clinical teachers in creating comprehensive and educational patient cases for use in teaching medical and nursing students.

1. Identify learning objectives; determine what the students should learn from the patient case. Focus on specific skills, knowledge areas, or competencies.
2. Select a relevant case; choose a patient case that is relevant to the students' level of education and the learning objectives.
3. Gather comprehensive details; compile detailed information about the patient case.
4. Develop clinical questions; create thought-provoking clinical questions to accompany the case.
5. Incorporate inter-professional perspectives.
6. Feedback and reflection; plan for a feedback session after the case study. Encourage students to reflect on their learning, discuss different approaches, and consider the implications for future practice.

Special requirements:

Strictly adhere to guidelines for patient confidentiality. Anonymize all patient information and obtain necessary permissions if required.

Ensure the cases are diverse and cover a range of conditions, demographics, and healthcare settings.

Incorporate cases that foster cultural competence, highlighting the importance of considering cultural, social and personal factors in patient care.

Time required:

Allow 2-4 hours for selecting and detailing a patient case.

Spend 1-2 hours creating clinical questions and designing associated learning activities.

Allocate a group session or seminar (typically 1-3 hours) for presenting the case, conducting learning activities, and facilitating group discussion and feedback.