

Problem-based learning

Problem-based learning enhances the quality of internships for students by engaging them in solving real-world clinical problems, thereby fostering critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and decision-making skills. This approach encourages active learning and teamwork. Problem-based learning promotes lifelong learning habits and adaptability, essential qualities for healthcare professionals facing the ever-evolving challenges of modern medicine.



How:

Objective; to implement problem-based learning in clinical settings.

1. Identify clinical problems; select relevant, real-world clinical problems or scenarios that students are likely to encounter.
2. Form small groups; organize students into small groups to facilitate discussion, collaboration, and peer learning. Each group works on the same or different clinical problems.
3. Introduce the problem; present the problem to the students without providing a solution.
4. Guided inquiry; guide students as they identify what they know, what they need to learn, and how they can acquire the necessary information to solve the problem. Encourage the use of resources such as clinical guidelines, research articles, and expert consultations.
5. Develop solutions; facilitate groups as they discuss and develop potential solutions or management plans for the problem.
6. Presentation and reflection; have each group present their findings and proposed solutions to peers and clinical teachers.

Special requirements:

Clinical teachers should be trained in problem based learning facilitation, including guiding inquiry without giving away solutions and encouraging reflective discussion.

Students should have access to medical libraries, online databases, and experts for consultation as part of their problem-solving process.

Where possible, incorporate inter-professional education by involving students from different healthcare disciplines to foster teamwork and collaborative problem solving.

Time required:

Clinical teachers may need 1-2 hours to select and prepare clinical problems for presentation.

The problem-based learning sessions, can range from a few hours to several days, depending on the allocated time for in-depth exploration and discussion.

Allocate 1-2 hours for groups to present their solutions and participate in reflective discussions and feedback sessions.