CULTIVATING INTERVIEW COMPETENCE
Four Approaches to Exposing Didactic PA Students to the Chronic Mental Illness Interview

Introduction and Methods
This poster outlines four different ways of exposing students to a Chronic Mental Illness (CMI) interview during their didactic year.
• As per ARC-PA requirements, PA students at the University of Washington MEDEX program complete a behavioral medicine rotation as part of clinical training.
• In preparation, didactic year students participate in an interview and mental status assessment of a patient with a CMI.
• The CMI interview is conducted at each MEDEX campus – Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma (Washington), and Anchorage (Alaska).
• The concept is standardized among the four sites, but the method of student preparation, interview setting, interviewee population, and faculty involvement vary.

Important Considerations
Is it necessary to prepare PA students to do a CMI interview using real patients during the didactic year?
Is the student benefit worthy of the faculty effort required?
Is a structured, more formalized interview experience superior or inferior to a less formal, unstructured experience?

Faculty Involvement
Seattle – Structured Interviews
• Students observe a mental health clinician on faculty conduct CMI interviews.
• Faculty proctors every interview.

Spokane – Structured Interviews
• Students observe a non-faculty mental health clinician conduct CMI interviews.
• Faculty proctors every interview.

Tacoma – Unstructured Interviews
• Faculty mediates the preparatory session with YouTube videos.
• Students observe staff at the clinic during mental health care tasks and solicit informal discussions with outpatients on their own.

Anchorage – Unstructured Interviews
• Faculty mediates the preparatory session with YouTube videos.
• Faculty works with nonclinical staff at the Web to familiarize them with interview objectives.
• Web staff then facilitate volunteer recruitment.
• Interviews are not proctored.

Student Feedback on CMI Interview
“I really enjoyed my interview. There is no way an actor could provide the same experience. Please keep this in the class.”

“Really great experience at Evergreen! Having the actors is great, but working with real patients can't compare. I would love to do this again!”

“The actors help us get comfortable asking questions, but the real patient was an eye opener and in a way much easier.”

ARC-PA Curriculum Requirements for Behavioral and Mental Health Care

Section B2: Clinical Preparatory Instruction
B2.08 The program must include instruction in the social and behavioral sciences as well as normal and abnormal development across the life span
B3.03 Supervised clinical practice must provide sufficient patient exposure to allow each student to meet program-defined requirements with patients seeking: care for behavioral and mental health conditions

Section B3: Supervised Clinical Practice
B3.07 Supervised clinical practice experiences should occur with preceptors in the following disciplines: health care

CMI Interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Nature of Interview</th>
<th>Interviewee</th>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Grading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Harborview Outpatient Mental Health Department</td>
<td>Scheduled formal encounter</td>
<td>Paid volunteers</td>
<td>In the Fall quarter, students observe a psychiatric physician assistant as he conducts CMI interviews on patients in the same population that the students will ultimately interview</td>
<td>SOAP note on the encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>The Evergreen Club, a local mental health clubhouse in Spokane</td>
<td>Scheduled formal encounter</td>
<td>Paid volunteers</td>
<td>During the Fall quarter, a psychiatrist comes to campus and interviews three CMI patients, all previously unknown to him. The students observe each interview and after participate in a question and answer session with the psychiatrist</td>
<td>SOAP note on the encounter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>Comprehensive Life Resources, a local community health clinic in Tacoma</td>
<td>Unstructured experience shadowing mental health staff and speaking informally with outpatients</td>
<td>Unpaid outpatients in the facility’s Empowerment Room</td>
<td>In the Fall quarter, students watch two YouTube videos depicting a mental health provider conducting an interview with a CMI patient</td>
<td>Summary description of the experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web, a nonclinical environment that provides resources to homeless individuals, most of whom have a substance abuse history</td>
<td>Unstructured experience with Web Consumers who spontaneously volunteer to be interviewed</td>
<td>Unpaid volunteers</td>
<td>In the Fall quarter, students watch two YouTube videos depicting a mental health provider conducting an interview with a CMI patient</td>
<td>SOAP note on the encounter</td>
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