

Module: An Introduction to Clinical Examination Skills by *Chris Mulryan*

Code: HLT2044

20 credits at level HE5

Description and Purpose of Module

Accurate and timely patient assessment is one of the cornerstones of good clinical care. It is the foundation for clinical decision making and without a robust high quality assessment any clinical decisions made are likely to be flawed. Flawed decision making presents potential harms to a patients and as such the importance of clinical correct clinical assessment cannot be understated. Given the importance of good clinical assessment this module intends to equip participants with not only a theoretical understanding of what components make up a good clinical assessment but also provides a introduction to some of the most commonly performed clinical examination skills that are performed in the clinical setting.

Specifically this module aims to teach individuals how to take a full presenting history from a patient and then how to examine some of the core systems within adult patients in a systematic and organised way so that participants can identify abnormalities and pathological changes that may be present and then report these to a more senior clinician in an organised way.

Indicative Syllabus Content

Students will be learning a variety of assessment skills that are particularly relevant to clinical practice in the out of hospital / primary care setting. Specifically students will learn how to communicate with patients in order to gain a presenting history. The importance of history taking will be made clear and an appreciation of how focused clinical examinations can support decision making will be developed.

After establishing skills in history taking students will be taught to systematically examine and understand findings that relate to the following core systems which may need to be commonly examined in the out of hospital / primary care setting.

- The Respiratory System
- The Cardiovascular System
- The Abdomen
- The Ears, Nose and Throat
- The Muscular Skeletal System
- The Central Nervous System

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

This module will be delivered in a blended learning manner. Students will be provided with directed reading and a range of web based resources which will include video demonstrations of the stated examinations and podcast descriptions of the examination stages. Students will also benefit from sessions in the University clinical skills lab where they will have opportunity to both witness demonstrations of the core clinical examinations and practice these examinations on peers. The group will be split in to smaller teams for practical sessions thus enabling peer support and critique in a safe environment.

For each systematic examination students will receive an introduction that outlines the steps that need to be undertaken when examining the specified system. This will include the some key pathological findings that may be seen indicating need for therapy or referral.

Patient simulators will be used to expose participants to pathological findings that can not be readily identified in healthy specimens. Students will be given the opportunity to video each other performing examinations and then receive formative feedback on their progress.

The assessment in this module will be in two parts. Firstly observed structured clinical examinations will be used to assess students ability to undertake the varying clinical assessments in an ordered and correct way. Secondly multiple choice assessments will be used to assess students knowledge of the examination techniques and possible findings across a broad spectrum of conditions / disease processes.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

	Learning Outcomes when you have successfully completed this module you will:	Assessment Criteria to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning outcome you will:
1.	Communicate with people in a way that enables you to collect an accurate presenting history	1.1 Describe what motivates and inhibits communication with people in a clinical interactions 1.2 Demonstrate an ability to obtain a full history 1.3 Use strategies to clarify information from patients in order that it may reliably inform clinical decision making 1.4 Provide reassurance and act with sensitivity when interacting with patients
2.	Perform systematic clinical examinations of adult systems	2.1 Demonstrate systematic and technically correct examination of stated system in adult patients
3.	Identify abnormalities on clinical examination	3.1 Describe the different abnormalities that may be found in each of the specified organ systems 3.2 Identify abnormalities where present in patients
4.	4. Present examination findings in an organised manner to a more senior clinician	4.1 Synthesise gathered information and produce a organised problem list 4.2 Accurately and concisely present your findings to a more senior college 4.3 Identify the urgency of a patient's clinical need and secure assistance in a timely fashion that takes into account the clinical urgency of the situation.

Assessment

Your achievement of the learning outcomes for this module will be tested as follows:

Type	ICA	PRA
Description	Multiple choice question paper of 50 questions with a 70% correct response required	1. Observed Structured Clinical Examinations Pass Required
%age	50	50
Final Assessment	N	Y
Learning Outcomes	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4

Prerequisite Module(s)

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Barred Combinations

No restrictions apply.

Indicative Reading

Students in this module will be supported by focused learning materials issued by the university. Additional background reading will include

Ford, M. Japp, A. Hennessey, I (2005) Introduction to Clinical Examination 8 edition. Churchill Livingstone, London.

Module Type:	STAN
Module Length:	2
Host Subject Group:	Health Studies
Version Number::	0.1

Activity Log

User Name	Date Accessed	Action
cm5	03/08/2010 17:58:02	added
cm5	03/08/2010 18:11:20	Ammended
cm5	03/08/2010 18:21:54	Ammended
Admin	25/08/2010 16:14:30	Ammended
Admin	06/10/2010 11:48:37	Revalidated

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