SMALL GROUP SESSION 7A  
October 4th or October 6th  

AA Visitor and Substance Abuse Role Plays  

Readings:  “AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” and “44 Questions Helping Patients with Alcohol Problems.” This can be found at:  

Prepare by:  
• Learning your role for this week, which was handed out by your mentors at your last session in December. Feel free to ad lib and be creative.  
• Preparing your patient presentation, which should include the HPI, PMHx, Social History, and the patient’s story. Be prepared to share your research findings as well.  
• Writing up your patient interview – one page for the HPI, PMHx and Social History, and one page for the narrative.  
• Dressing professionally.  

Brief outline:  
Section 1. Touch base: 20 minutes  
Section 2. Visitor from AA – 60 minutes  
Section 3. Substance abuse role plays – 60 minutes  
Section 4. Presentation of hospital interviews – 40 minutes  
Section 5. Evaluation – 5 minutes  

Preparation for next session:  

Readings:  
(locate by navigating through UVA health sciences library, on-line journals, NEJM, direct from publisher. Log-in ID is uva1, password is Monticello)  

Tomlinson, J. Taking a sexual history. British Medical Journal, 1998; 317:1573-1576 (December 5). Available at:  
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/317/7172/1573  

CONTINUED ON NEXT OF PAGE!
Prepare by:

- being prepared to act your sexual history role play (Mentors hand out today)
- bringing your two completed process interview self-evaluation forms from your videotaped standardized patient interview
- looking at your videotaped standardized patient interview and completing a second feedback form; bring both
- bringing your videotape, set at the section of interview you would like to show to the group—very important that your video is “ready to roll” to avoid using time to search for the spot.

Mentors, bring TV and VCR for next week.

Session Logistics

As you can see, this will be a busy session. The AA visitors will come to your group for the first or second half of the session. You will receive a schedule. The priority for this week should be spending time with the AA visitor and with the substance abuse role-plays. Save the presentations for last. Do them if you have time, but if you don’t that is OK (students still have to turn in their write-ups).
Section 1. Touch Base
This is the first session after the first exams! Congratulations (or condolences – just kidding)! Students will by now have received a schedule for the interview this week, or will have already completed it.

Section 2. Visitor from AA
Goal: Students will hear a first hand account of a person who is a recovering alcoholic, and will examine their own attitudes about substance abuse and patients who suffer from substance abuse.

Objectives:
1. Students will be able to describe alcoholism as a chronic, relapsing disease.
2. Students will describe the effect of a patient’s alcoholism on the doctor-patient relationship.
3. Students will examine their own attitudes about caring for patients who suffer from alcoholism.

Logistics:

Each AA visitor is planning on sharing about one hour with the group. If the group process with the visitor is working well, feel free to extend the time with the visitor.

The AA visitor will share the story of his/her illness with the group, and will be willing to answer questions from the group. If necessary, the following questions may help move the conversation to productive areas:

What moved you to get into recovery?
Describe interactions or the relationship you had with physicians before you entered recovery.
What physician actions might have gotten you into recovery sooner than you did?
What has helped you maintain your recovery?
What can physicians do to help you maintain your recovery?
How would you have responded to the CAGE questions, or to questions about consumption, while you were still drinking?

If you have time remaining after the AA visitor leaves, consider discussing alcoholism and substance abuse further with the group. The following questions might help to stimulate discussion.

How would you feel about caring for a patient with a substance abuse problem?
Would you treat patients with a substance abuse problem differently from other patients?
Section 3: Substance Abuse History Role Plays

Objectives:

1. To practice taking a substance abuse history in a less embarrassing setting before you do this with real patients
2. To practice interviewing techniques when dealing with sensitive topics

Logistics:

You will be in groups of three: one patient, one examiner, and one observer (with one of your mentors as co-observer). Each of you will have a chance to play one of the three roles.

When you are examiner, obtain a history of present illness (HPI), a PMHx and Social History, including the substance abuse history. Then all three of you can discuss what happened, how well you were able to elicit a history and how both of you felt.

Don’t forget to:

- ask about smoking, alcohol and other substances
- ask the CAGE questions if you obtain an alcohol history
- ask about past as well as current substance use

One of most common errors – not obtaining a detailed enough substance use history.

Spend about 15 minutes for each interview (including feedback).

After this, reconvene as a group and discuss what you learned.

- What did you learn about yourself while doing the role-plays?
- What techniques seemed to work best for you?
- Where do you need more practice?

Section 4. Presentation of hospital interview

Each student should give a case presentation based on their interview with a hospitalized patient last week that should last no more than 5 minutes. They should also give a 2 or 3 minute presentation based on the research they did on their question from last week.
Section 5. Evaluation

Your group is ½ through this semester. How is your group functioning? What could the Mentors and student members do to improve group functioning?