

RANDOM CASE ANALYSIS – The Why, The What, and The How.

Why do Random Case Analysis?

1. To encourage the registrar to use his work as a learning opportunity
2. To foster continuing medical education in the registrar
3. To exploit the learning opportunities in the material presented by the registrar.
4. To encourage the registrar to think widely and critically about their work and if appropriate relate this to the literature.
5. To assess the registrar's performance (a form of formative assessment, and RCA informs completion of the Trainer's Report for Summative Assessment)

What Can You Do during Random Case Analysis? - (A menu of tasks)

1. Enquire about background information e.g. age sex address previous contact between registrar and patient.
2. Ask about specific clinical issues.
3. Encourage the registrar to formulate clinical management plans to solve current, future and hypothetical problems.
4. Explore the Registrar's use of Consultation Skills.
5. Ask about other opportunities in the consultation i.e. health promotion, on going problems and modification of help seeking behaviour.
6. Explore the registrar's feelings in relation to the consultation
7. Discuss Prescribing Issues
8. Discuss Ethical Issues
9. Discuss Legal and Contractual Issues
10. Discuss Management and Organisational issues for the practice
11. Check use of computerised records
12. Identify registrars learning needs
13. Encourage formulation of plans to address those needs.
14. Ask the registrar for his assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the consultation.
15. Use time efficiently
16. Foster the relationship between registrar and trainer.

How Can You Do This? - A Menu of Skills for Random Case Analysis

1. Create an appropriate ambience (setting, appropriate verbal and non verbal communication)
2. Use question, open, closed, open focussed and open close cone.
3. Listen Attentively to the registrar.
4. Recognise Cues
5. Respond to cues
6. Ask about registrar's feelings (this is affective learning).
7. If appropriate demonstrate empathy
8. Clarify as appropriate
9. Summarise from time to time
10. If giving information consider, explicit categorisation, sign posting, chunking, checking, and reverse summarisation