



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

DEVELOPMENT OF PAEDIATRIC E-LEARNING MODULES

2010 - 2011



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WEST MIDLANDS WORKFORCE DEANERY

Overview:	5 e learning modules have been developed over a 2 year time period which are applicable to a wide range of health care professionals. A team of local experts was used to develop each module. Topics covered are safeguarding of children, Paediatric palliative care, cardiology, respiratory diseases and diabetes. The modules have been widely accessed and praised as an excellent resource and exemplar of progressive learning.
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The School of Paediatrics has developed 5 e learning modules in Safeguarding, Paediatric Palliative care, cardiology, respiratory diseases and diabetes, after being successful in competing for SHA monies for educational projects. The 48 hour working week, junior doctor shift patterns of working and child health being increasingly based in the community has made traditional face to face learning difficult to achieve. In addition, safeguarding of children is an important aspect of work for many specialties including general practice and not just Paediatrics. It rapidly became apparent that these modules would be applicable not only to doctors but a wide range of health care professionals

The modules were developed over a 2 year time period. Competitive tender was undertaken to choose a media company and OCB media was selected who have a proven track record in this field. For Safeguarding a steering group of Paediatricians and general practitioners worked together and this work was achieved in less than 6 months. Paediatric Palliative care is an extensive module supported with animation following a successful £90,000 bid for monies to enhance this module from the Department of Health. As with diabetes this involved consultants and specialist nurses expert in this field working together to decide core content and writing of modules.

The impact of the modules has been far ranging and much more than we expected with a wide variety of health care professionals accessing them and praising the content with statements such as a “fantastic resource”. The Paediatric Palliative care module was launched on 7th April 2011 when I presented it at the RCPCH Spring meeting at Warwick University. The module was felt to be an exemplar of progressive learning and highly innovative with over 600 users within a few days. The challenge for the future will be ensuring that the modules keep up to date with any advance in medical practice within these areas.

A number of lessons have been learnt. One of the biggest challenges was the time commitment needed to edit and refine modules and Sue Hatton was an invaluable colleague in this respect. A committed team is vital and I am grateful to all colleagues, too numerous to mention who spent innumerable hours working away on these modules but especially Drs Lisa Cuddeford and Maybelle Wallis for Palliative Care and Drs Caroline Roderick and Najma Mirza for Safeguarding and Dr Chizu Agwu, Professor Tim Barrett and Dr John Scanlon for Diabetes. Selection of a media company who

are willing to work flexibly especially on timelines is vital and who have creativity in presentation of work to make the modules interesting and interactive. Finally funding is key and we underestimated cost with contributors working unpaid on modules in their own time, due to a strong belief in the need for more education to be widely available in their area of expertise.