Appendix 4

Sample text for tailoring and re-use (eg in Module Overview of WebCT module)

Module Overview

Welcome to Module: Pain and Symptom Management!
Welcome to the pain and symptom management module. Some of you may have studied other modules as part of the MSc programme; some of you will be new to this style of studying. All of you have something to offer which will enhance the learning experience for us all.

We will regularly refer to reflection as a learning activity. Reflection means to bend or turn backwards such as light in a mirror. This creates some beautiful and amazing images, sometimes clear, sometimes cloudier. In educational terms, we are reflecting on ourselves and others and the actions we utilise. The opportunity to share these reflections with others is highly valuable, allowing confirmation and acknowledgement of ideas and the forum to explore fresh approaches. This can be quite daunting at first but with your participation a wealth of experience can be shared and built on.

This module runs for 12 weeks with the opportunity for face to face meetings occurring on the study days. We expect you to read all the messages posed on the discussion board and participate in all the e-activities in the learning materials. A timetable is provided to guide you through the workload in a flexible but structured way. If you have any difficulties please contact your lecturer who will respond promptly.

Introduction to Module
It is a requirement of study at Master's Level that you search for, and utilise, material from a wide range of academically-credible sources. This is a prerequisite for acquisition of breadth and depth of knowledge and subsequent evaluation of its application to health care.

Whilst the recommended reading activities provide a useful overview of a wide range of Pain & Symptom Management issues and strategies, you will need to access additional source in relation to your own specific professional role. You should, therefore, regard the material provided on WebCT as the starting point for your studies. Please refer to the MSc Programme Level information, including Library and internet access, in order to identify and access the wide range of information sources which are available to you. The Module Level information also provides a useful resource list.

The Pain and Symptom Module comprises four sequential units, which are supplemented by attendance at 2 mandatory study days with an optional ½ day available to attend group tutorial support.

The time taken to complete each Unit, and to complete the activities identified within the Units, will vary from one student to another. Please refer, however, to the Module timetable (opens in a new browser window) for suggested completion times and for the assignment submission dates.

The Units contain activities that are designed to assist you in preparation of the module assignment. Some activities are undertaken on your own, whilst others involve an electronic discussion with other students and/or your academic supervisor. Use of discussion rooms is optional, but they can provide a useful contact with other students. Whilst the prospect of placing your ideas in front of other people is perhaps daunting (and even threatening!), the perspective of other people is extremely important in the development of advanced practice. It is obviously important, when the students provide feedback about other students' work, that they do so in a manner which is constructive and takes into account the potential impact of their comments on the recipient.

Please also remember that your tutor should be used as a resource and it is strongly recommended that you contact them for advice during the preparation of your assignment.

Aims of Module
- To examine the physiological, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of pain and other common symptoms of advanced disease.
- To critically evaluate assessment and management strategies employed in pain and symptom management.

Description of Module Content
- Aetiology, Pathophysiology, mortality and morbidity of pain and common symptoms
- Assessment tools and strategies
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches to pain and symptom management
- Psychological, social, cultural and spiritual aspects of pain and other symptoms of advanced disease
- Ethical dilemmas facing the multi-professional team in managing pain and other symptoms
- Influencing change in pain and symptom management.

Assessment
Summative assessment has 3 dimensions:

Abstract – requires students to choose an area of practice in pain and symptom management they wish to change incorporating the relevant theories of pain and

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symptom management and a brief literature review relating to the area chosen (200 words)

Poster – from the abstract, student are required to produce a poster (A1 or A0 size) including a rationale for change, background literature, any applicable pain or symptom theories and the specific strategies utilised to implement the change in practice. Any further recommendations for practice should be included.

Reflective account – in addition, the students are required to submit a reflective account of their experience in preparing the poster, analysing their approach and identifying areas for their own future development (2000 words).

LTA Approach
Student directed flexible learning through the use of a range of web based activities where students will reflect on practice issues in relation to pain and symptom management that are directly related to the participant's area of professional practice.

In addition, critical examination of the literature will be supplemented by key lectures provided by expert practitioners, group discussions and case study analysis. Electronic discussion rooms and e-mail will facilitate both lecturer and peer support.

Online Learning Guidance for this Module
WebCT is being used on this module to support student learning by providing you with:

- Module lecturers' contact information
- Access to module learning materials
- Learning material compilation and printing feature
- Discussion forums
- E-mail facility
- Self assessment features
- Access to a comprehensive glossary
- Assessment specifications
- Guidance for preparation of assignment materials
- Module evaluation and feedback mechanism.

Within the module learning materials **you are expected to perform a variety of activities**:

- Reflective activities
- Discussion activities
- Case scenarios
- Guided reading
- Self assessments.

Additionally, **you are expected to attend the on-site study days as timetabled in the planner**.

The reflective activities are optional activities which are integrated into the learning materials as a way to consolidate your learning whilst integrating it into your own fields of work.

The case scenarios are available to guide your learning through a variety of topics.

Whilst you may incorporate an alternative scenario from your own experience, it is important these activities are completed in order to fully cover all the learning outcomes.

Guided reading activities are offered throughout each unit. This recommended reading is only a small selection of core literature on specific topics and it is fully expected you will conduct a larger review of the literature in relation to your own area of practice and identified learning requirements.

Self assessment activities are available in each unit of learning materials. These comprise of multiple-choice or self-selected answer quizzes which allow you the opportunity to review your learning achievements and identify any areas requiring further study. This form of reflection on your learning is essential and it is expected that all students will complete these short quizzes.

Online communication
In addition to accessing the learning materials within the module units, it is expected you will log on to the module site 2-3 times per week in order to visit the notice board, check your emails and engage in the on line discussions.

The notice board will be used by the lecturer to communicate changes or points of interest during the module. It is important this platform is reviewed regularly as individual emails from the lecturer will be reserved for matters private in nature. The e-mail feature within WebCT however, does provide a convenient means of communicating with other class members individually and use of this facility is encouraged.

The Discussion feature, however, provides an asynchronous communication area for both students and lecturers. The online discussion facilitates exchanges of thoughts, questions and answers, with all module participants regardless of their location or the time of day. It also allows teaching staff access to a log of all students' online activity.

The discussion facility includes 3 different discussion topics:

- Learning materials
- Assignment
- General.

The 'learning material' discussions are topic related. You are expected to participate in the specified discussion activities in the module materials. You will only be able to contribute to these discussions for a limited time. Please check your planner for availability. However, they will remain accessible for you to read and reflect on at a later date.

Although contributions to the online discussions are not assessed formally, they are an integral and essential part of the course and may contribute considerably to the students' resources when completing their final assessment.

Whilst the prospect of placing one's ideas in front of other people is perhaps daunting, the perspective of other professionals, particularly from a multi-professional cohort, is extremely important in the development of advanced practice. Therefore, it is fundamental, when providing feedback on other student's work that is done in a constructive manner which takes into account the potential impact these comments may have on the recipient.

The 'general' and 'assignment' discussion topics will be available for the duration of the module to allow any general questions or thoughts to be posted and discussed which may contribute to the learning experience or the final assignment submission.

Netiquette
To promote a supportive online learning community, online contributions are always expected to be topic related and polite, just as you would expect in a face to face classroom setting. It is advised the netiquette guidelines are reviewed by all students which can be found in the WebCT guide on the MSc Palliative Care Pathway site.

The role of the lecturers
The lecturers are one of your most valuable resources! It is strongly recommended that you contact the lecturers for advice at any time, either in person or in the online discussions. However, although e-mail contact is available if the advice is of a more personal or private nature, this form of communication is discouraged for more general enquiries.

Apart from being present at the optional tutorial day or the two study days, the lecturers aim to ensure a regular online presence also. You may find the lecturers will moderate, guide and encourage critical thought in the online discussions. However, it is our intention that any questions raised within the discussions or via e-mail will be responded to within 24-48 hours.