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Considerations in Caring for Adults with Physical Disabilities

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Considerations in Caring for Adults with Physical Disabilities Perspectives in Medicine Spring 2014

Ingrid C. Hendrix, MILS
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Session One – Examining Attitudes and Barriers

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

Objective 1 – Develop awareness of personal biases about disability and its impact on individual behaviors and values

Objective 2 - Identify underlying belief and assumptions about disability and able bodiedness

Objective 3 –Identify physical, communication and attitudinal barriers to health care faced by Persons With Disabilities (PWD)

1. Introductions and overview of this elective
2. Video and case exercises
 - a. Access Barriers to the Facility
 - b. Attitudinal, Social and Economic Policy Barriers

Session Two– Communicating with Persons with Disabilities

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

Objective 1 – understand communication barriers experienced by persons with disabilities

1. Panel presentation of people with disabilities – brief presentations in which panel members share personal stories of their life and medical experiences.
2. Video and case exercises

Session Three – Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

Objective 1 – Demonstrate increased awareness of resources available to improve quality of life for persons with disabilities

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Objective 2 – Characterize elements necessary for a letter of medical necessity

1. Explore resources (in class activity)
 - a. Explore one of the following community services based on a specific case scenario:
 - i. Assistive Technology
 - ii. Durable medical equipment
 - iii. Attendant care
 - iv. Home modifications
 - v. Service animals (Delta Society list of orgs; choose one or two, compare criteria, cost, time for training, etc.)
 - vi. Transportation
2. Letters of medical necessity (hands on activity and discussion)

Session Four – Interdisciplinary Team Approach to Caring for Persons with Disabilities

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

Objective 1 – Identify roles of interdisciplinary care team in providing comprehensive care to persons with disabilities.

1. Panel presentation - OT, PT, and social work
2. Presentation - specific cultural competencies, etiquette and clinical accommodations for working with deaf / hard-of-hearing patients and patients with visual impairments

Out of class activity - Describe facility barriers/challenges faced by patients with physical disabilities when interacting with the health care system. (Due session 5)

- a. UNM Hospitals/Clinics Environmental Review – checklist

Session Five – Legal considerations for the healthcare provider

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

Objective 1 – List elements of the ADA that affect healthcare facilities

Objective 2 – Understand the role of the UNM Medical Legal Alliance

1. UNM Medical Legal Alliance presentation (law and medical faculty panel)
 - i. Social security disability
 - ii. Workers compensation
2. Report back facility audit results from session one
3. Course evaluations

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