Considerations in Caring for Adults with Physical Disabilities

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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