Risky Business: Clinical Decision Making in Emergency Medicine

Pre-Workshop Self-Assessment

1. The major source of litigation in the emergency department is:

   (a) Procedural error (intubation, central line, chest-tube, suturing, casts etc)
   (b) Communication failures (with team-members, patients, family physicians etc)
   (c) Diagnostic error (delayed or missed diagnoses)
   (d) Systemic failures (lost reports, design of the emergency department, information gaps, scheduling)
   (e) None of the above

2. I am aware of the major sources of individual and systemic error in the ED

3. I have an understanding of how the process of clinical decision making generally works

4. I have a good working knowledge of the major cognitive biases that influence emergency physicians’ thinking

5. I know the principle differences between intuitive and analytical decision making

6. I can give examples of affective bias in decision making in the ED

7. The overall incidence of diagnostic error in the ED is estimated at:

   □ 30%    □ 1%    □ 10%    □ 5%    □ 15%    □ 2%    □ 40%

8. If the reliability of our cars was comparable to that of the human brain, many of us would not get home for supper tonight.

   □ True    □ False

9. In the last hour or two of a night shift, my thinking performance has declined by:

   □ 2%    □ 30%    □ 10%    □ 5%    □ 15%    □ 2%    □ 40%    □ 0%
Ethics

10. I am comfortable assessing a patient’s decision-making capacity
   □ True □ False

11. I have a general approach to discussing life-sustaining treatments (e.g. DNR orders) with patients and their families
   □ True □ False

12. I can identify common reasons for conflict when discussing life-sustaining treatments, and respond accordingly
   □ True □ False

13. I know all of the situations in which I am legally obliged to disclose patient-related information and how to do so
   □ True □ False

Disclosure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you know.....</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you aware of the Canadian terminology related to harm and disclosure?</td>
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<tr>
<td>When and how should I apologize to a patient?</td>
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<td>What should I do if I am aware that the care of another provider might have led to an adverse event?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your obligation to disclose adverse events to patients?</td>
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<td>What should I do if a patient or their family requests that a lawyer be present at a disclosure discussion?</td>
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<td>Where can I turn to for assistance and advice?</td>
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Please list one or two challenging situations related to clinical decision making and managing patients in the ED that you encounter.

   1. ________________________________________________________________

   2. ________________________________________________________________

Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians