

Learning Activity: Emergency Room & Stigma Case Study

Description of Activity:	An emergency room setting case study about a patient experiencing homelessness that leaves against medical advice due to stigma in the hospital setting. This case has discussion prompts and answer key to guide teaching faculty.					
Keywords:	People experiencing homelessness, IV drug use, AMA, Stigma					
Type of activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Didactic <input type="checkbox"/> Simulation <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical	Recommendation on when introduced in curriculum?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid <input type="checkbox"/> End	Suggested Course:	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion /Assessment/ Fundamentals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acute care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chronic care <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/ Community health <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Competency addressed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Provide respectful, compassionate, person-centered care for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Evaluate clients for social determinants of health needs, including housing status and related aspects of safety, access to food, social support and other relevant domains <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Collaborate with client and appropriate Interprofessional community members to optimize health in PEH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Advocate for improved health for PEH					
Assessment	Formative: Student discussion with peers.	Summative: Graded answer key	Assessment Tools: Answer Key			
Learning Activity:	<p>Case: Jim, a 52-year-old patient experiencing homelessness, came into the emergency department experiencing pain, redness, and swelling in his right arm. The emergency provider admitted him to the hospital for intravenous antibiotics. The patient has a past history of intravenous drug use, tobacco use, and peripheral vascular disease.</p> <p>The patient stated that he had a zit on his arm, and he picked at it, and he was prescribed oral antibiotics outpatient for cellulitis, but he did not pick up his antibiotics. Currently, Jim states he is experiencing 20/10 burning pain in his right arm and needs pain medication now!</p> <p>The nurse has 3 other patients, and one has antibiotics due now. The nurse decides to administer the antibiotics before getting pain medication for Jim. After the nurse gives the antibiotics, she then goes to give Jim pain medication, but he is not in the room, and no one can find him. Jim left against medical advice.</p> <p>1. Discussion Prompts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think caused Jim’s cellulitis? What do you think contributed to Jim getting cellulitis? Why do you think Jim left against medical advice? 					

	<p>d. What could have prevented Jim from leaving against medical advice? e. What are the signs and symptoms of Jim’s cellulitis? f. Why could have contributed to Jim not getting his antibiotic?</p> <p>2. Answer key:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jim’ cellulitis was caused from the pimple on his arm that he scratched and picked at. He does not use intravenous drugs anymore. 2. Being unhoused, Jim could not keep his skin clean, and an infection occurred. 3. Jim left against medical advice because his pain was not being treated soon enough, and he was out of his window of tolerance being at the hospital. 4. If Jim felt like his pain was being treated seriously and was given respect and treated with unstigmatized care, he would have likely stayed in the hospital. 5. Jim’s symptoms of cellulitis are pain, redness, and swelling. 6. Jim is experiencing homelessness and had difficulty getting to the pharmacy to pick up his antibiotics. He has difficulty with transportation and the cost of medications, or based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, he needs to spend money on food rather than antibiotics.
Time Required:	15 minutes total. 10 minutes for students/class to read the case study and answer questions and 5 minutes to discuss the questions.
Preparation of the student:	Read resource to learn about stigma
Resources:	Gaber, S. N., Rosenblad, A. K., Mattsson, E., & Klarare, A. (2022). The relationship between attitudes to homelessness and perceptions of caring behaviors: A cross-sectional study among women experiencing homelessness, nurses and nursing students. <i>BMC Women’s Health</i> , 22(159), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-022-01744-8
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