



INTRODUCTION TO PRESCRIPTION WRITING: ONLINE MODULES FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT: Poster (3B)

- Purpose:** Medication prescription writing is an essential skill for physicians. However, medical students often receive minimal formal training in this area. Two online modules were designed to provide medical students a convenient method to learn the skills of prescription writing.
- Methods:** Two modules were designed in PowerPoint for use in Desire2Learn, the course management system used at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). The modules were targeted at pre-clerkship (Phases I-III) students with no previous healthcare experience. In the first module, students were taught the basic requirements (e.g. acceptable abbreviations) and worked through examples of several types of common outpatient prescriptions (e.g. antibiotics). Tips for clear communication were provided throughout, and embedded questions along with a multiple-choice quiz provided opportunity for self-review. A second module was developed to cover topics that could not be addressed in the first (e.g. rules regarding narcotic prescriptions). Both modules were made available to pre-clerkship medical students at MUN in the winter of 2016.
- Results:** A user-satisfaction survey for the first module (based on the course evaluation questionnaires used locally). The module was generally received favourably (e.g. 92% of responding students indicated "agree" or "strongly agree" to "I would recommend this module to other medical students"). Strengths noted by students include the module's level of detail and use of examples.
- Conclusion:** Online modules are a convenient method to teach students the skills of prescription writing for medications.