

OVERVIEW OF “EMERGENCY MEDICINE (RE-RUN)” FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan

SFP2014; 40(1) Supplement: 6-7

INTRODUCTION

Acute medical and surgical problems are an important part of the frontline medical practitioners' daily encounters. This Emergency Medicine Family Practice Skills Course has several objectives namely, to update ourselves on the conditions that we need to make the correct judgment call to refer early, to be aware of the pitfalls that we can avoid, and finally to be confident on what we can safely treat and observe. There is also a need to educate patients on what they need to be on the look out for as their acute problems unfold and seek appropriate emergency attention as the need arises. Patient at risk of cerebrovascular occlusions and coronary artery occlusions also need to be educated on when they should activate the emergency service system to shorten the arrival to treatment time. Finally, it is helpful to be able to give patients the realistic expectations of what is likely to occur at the Emergency Department and to avoid promising a particular outcome to the patient as this will depend on what is found on further assessment. The axiom of “when in doubt refer” is still golden, except that with attending this course, the areas of uncertainty can be reduced as we have a better understanding of the emergent symptoms and signs versus reassuring symptoms and signs that an emergency referral would not be necessary, at least at the initial encounter. Adequate instructions to patients on what to look out for that may need emergency department attention is a must.

We have assembled a team of domain experts to both write the units for continuing medical education on the subject as well as to speak in the seminars on the weekend of 22-23 February 2014. The Singapore Family Physician editors would like to place on record our thanks for their efforts. Thanks are also due to the Health Promotion Board (HPB) and Ministry of Health (MOH) for supporting this Family Practice Skills Course.

This Emergency Medicine Family Practice Skills Course would be of immense value to you as a CME activity. Do consider attending if you can.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CME POINTS

This Family Practice Skills Course is made up of the following components. You can choose to participate in one or more parts of it. The CME points that will be awarded are also indicated as follows.

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Components and CME Points

- Distance Learning Course – 6 units (6 Core FM CME points upon attaining a minimum pass grade of 60% in Distance Learning Online MCQ Assessment)
- 2 Seminars (2 Core FM CME points per seminar)
- 2 Workshops (1 Core FM CME point per workshop)
- 10 Readings – read 5 out of 10 recommended journals (maximum of 5 CME points for the whole CME year)

Distance Learning Course

- Unit 1 : Optimal Use of Emergency Services
LTC (Dr) Ng Yih Yng
- Unit 2 : Improving Primary Care Management of Time Sensitive Emergencies
A/Prof Malcolm Mahadevan, Dr Kanwar Sudhir Lather
- Unit 3 : Update on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - 2013
Prof V Anantharaman
- Unit 4 : Pitfalls and Red Flags in Common Clinical Syndromes
A/Prof Mark Leong Kwok Fai
- Unit 5 : Initial Management of Major Trauma for Physician First Responders
Dr Kenneth Heng Wei Jian
- Unit 6 : Emergencies in the Very Young Patients – A Primer
Dr Jade Kua Phek Hui, A/Prof Ng Kee Chong

COURSE TOPIC DETAILS

Unit 1: Optimal Use of Emergency Services

- Introduction: Emergency Medical Services in Singapore
- Emergency Ambulance Services in Singapore
- When Does Emergency Medical Services Make the Biggest Difference?
- Considerations for Using the Ambulance Service
- Interfacing with the 995 Ops Centre and SCDF Paramedics
- Referring to the Emergency Department
- Making Better Emergency Department Referrals
- Saving Patients a Trip to the Emergency Department

Unit 2: Improving Primary Care Management of Time Sensitive Emergencies

- Introduction
- Acute Coronary Syndromes
- Cerebrovascular Accident
- Dyspnea

Unit 3: Update on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - 2013

- Introduction
- Basic Cardiac Life Support
- Defibrillation
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Conclusions

Unit 4: Pitfalls and Red Flags in Common Clinical Syndromes

- Introduction
- Acute Chest Pains and Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)
- The Breathless Patient
- The Patient with Headaches
- The Patient with Abdominal Pain
- Back Pain
- Wound and Injuries
- The Pregnant Patient
- Conclusions

Unit 5: Initial Management of Major Trauma for Physician First Responders

- Introduction
- Primary Survey
- After Primary Survey
- Special Considerations in Trauma
- Conclusions

Unit 6: Emergencies in the Very Young Patients – A Primer

- Introduction
- Medical and Physiological Differences in the Very Young
- Ten Common Conditions from Top to Toe

FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS**Seminar 1: 22 Feb 2014, 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Unit 1 : Optimal Use of Emergency Services
LTC (Dr) Ng Yih Yng

Unit 2 : Improving Primary Care Management of Time Sensitive Emergencies
A/Prof Malcolm Mahadevan

Unit 3 : Update on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - 2013
Prof V Anantharaman

Workshop 1: 22 Feb 2014, 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Quick Refresher on CPR and Use of AED
Dr Fam Jiang Ming, APN Patsy Chiang, SNC Lee Chin Hian, NC Zainab Bte Amat, SSN Lim Choon Chai

Seminar 2: 23 Feb 2014, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Unit 4 : Pitfalls and Red Flags in Common Clinical Syndromes
Dr Juliana Poh

Unit 5 : Initial Management of Major Trauma for Physician First Responders
Dr Kenneth Heng Wei Jian

Unit 6 : Emergencies in the Very Young Patients – A Primer
Dr Jade Kua Phek Hui

Workshop 2: 23 Feb 2014, 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Improving Emergency Care: Case based Discussions

- A panel of experts will discuss cases to illustrate strategies for improving care
- Participants are encouraged to bring their cases up to the panel for discussion

Dr Juliana Poh, Dr Jade Kua Phek Hui, Dr Quek Lit Sin