

Honesty and Integrity

A Choose Your Own Adventure teaching session for medical students

Narrator's resource book



SESSION OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

2 MINUTES

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE SCENARIO

10 MINUTES

DISCUSSION: SCENARIO

4 MINUTES

DISCUSSION: GMC GUIDANCE

4 MINUTES

TOTAL 20 MINUTES

Introduction

Your unfortunate colleague is going to have a rather poor day, but they have the opportunity to get away with the minimal trouble depending on the choices they make. Read them each stage of the scenario, and present them with their choices. Once they have made a choice, flip a coin but try to keep the result secret. Then read them the immediate consequences based on their choice and coin flip result. Once you both reach the end, let them know what later consequences they have earned. Good luck!

Part 1

Because your car is still broken, you have to take the bus in to placement. It arrives at your stop late, and traffic is heavy. You're already very stressed, as your placement supervisor takes a very dim view of lateness. At 8:55 your friend calls you to ask where you are. You explain the situation and have an idea...

Choice A) Ask your friend to sign you in at the undergrad office right now, with an arrival time of 8:55. You can then go direct to the ward when you arrive.

Choice B) Ask your friend to do nothing. Sign yourself in late at the undergrad office, and then go to the ward as quickly as you can.

A) heads: Your friend signs you in, and you arrive at the ward at 9:20, avoiding the placement supervisor.

A) tails: Your friend signs you in, and you arrive at the ward at 9:20, avoiding the placement supervisor. Unknown to either of you, the receptionist at undergrad noticed your friend signing someone else's name on the register.

At the end of the scenario, make sure to read your partner Email 1.

B) heads: You arrive at the hospital late and rush to undergrad. You sign yourself in at 9:20. On your way to the ward, you pass your placement supervisor, but he's far too busy to notice you scurry past.

B) tails: You arrive at the hospital late and rush to undergrad. You sign yourself in at 9:20. On your way to the ward, you pass your placement supervisor, who asks you why you're so late. You explain as best you can, and he angrily tells you to leave the house earlier next time. You arrive at the ward feeling sheepish.

Part 2

Part of the work you intended to do yesterday afternoon was to prepare a Case-Based Discussion, in which you present a patient case to your consultant. You'd hoped to avoid your consultant today, but after the ward round she tells you to come to her office in 10 minutes to present your case. Feeling panicked, you realise you only really have two options...

Choice A) Come clean to your consultant, and ask her if you can reschedule for a later date.

Choice B) Use your 10 minutes to make up a quick case about an invented patient you met in an invented outpatient clinic.

A) heads: Your consultant looks very sympathetic, and suggests you meet her next week to complete the CBD.

A) tails: Your consultant looks annoyed, as she has very little free time to devote to students. She suggests you try to catch the registrar to complete your CBD.

B) heads: Your consultant listens to your made-up story about a patient with end-stage kidney disease with mild interest, and signs the form with the feedback "Ask more about social history next time".

B) tails: Your consultant listens to your made-up story about a patient with end-stage kidney disease with rapt interest, and interrupts your list of medications with questions about the patient's social history. As her questions get more complicated, you begin to lose track of what you've already told her. By the end of the conversation she is staring at you with a very suspicious look on her face. *At the end of the scenario, make sure to read your partner Email 2.*

Part 3

After lunch you head back to the ward, and are grabbed by the registrar. You suddenly remember that he told you to look up some cannulation E-learning over the weekend. He steers you over to an elderly patient in a bed, and informs you that she needs a cannula inserted now so she can receive some IV fluids. He tells the patient that this is your first time doing a cannula on a real person, but that you've been studying hard and know exactly what to do. She looks nervous, but agrees that, "they need to learn!" They both look at you expectantly...

Choice A) Admit to the registrar and patient that you don't really know how to do a cannula.

Choice B) Attempt to do the cannula. If it goes wrong you can blame lack of practice, and how different can it really be from venepuncture anyway?

A) heads: The registrar laughs and tells you not to worry. He then demonstrates cannula technique on the patient, and afterwards prints off a step-by-step set of instructions for you.

A) tails: The registrar rolls his eyes and does the cannula for you. Afterwards he stalks off to do some X-ray forms, leaving you making awkward conversation with the patient.

B) heads: All those episodes of Casualty must have helped more than you realised, because you expertly manage to get the cannula in.

B) tails: Your hands shaking, you attempt to insert the cannula. Unfortunately you hit something under the vein and the patient yelps. In a panic you withdraw the needle without removing the tourniquet, and suddenly there's blood everywhere. The patient starts crying, the registrar asks you what the hell you're doing, and you can't stop yourself from exclaiming, "I'm so sorry, I didn't get a chance to do the E-learning!"

At the end of the scenario, make sure to read your partner Email 3.

Part 4

It's 4:45 and you're in an outpatient clinic. The consultant is taking much longer than his allotted time slots for each patient, and you realise with horror that there are still three to go. At this rate you won't leave much before 6, and you still have all of Sunday's work to catch up on, as well as a car to get fixed. But this particular consultant is well-known for making students stay right up until the end of his clinics. Unless...

Choice A) Tell the consultant you have a lot of work to do at home this evening and would like to leave early.

Choice B) Tell the consultant you have a teaching session at 5, and it's mandatory you attend.

A) heads: The consultant doesn't look up from his computer and waves you away. As you leave he says "See you next week Peterson". Peterson isn't even close to your real name.

A) tails: The consultant looks at you irritated and says "Peterson, if you weren't here asking so many questions I'd be done by now. Be quiet." Peterson isn't even close to your real name.

B) heads: The consultant doesn't look up from his computer and waves you away. As you leave he says "See you next week Peterson". Peterson isn't even close to your real name.

B) tails: The consultant turns to you, a sharp look in his eye. "Peterson, is it? I'm amazed how many of my students have mandatory teaching at precisely 5pm. I'll just call the undergrad office and confirm where you need to go, shall I?" You watch him with horror, and confusion, as Peterson isn't even close to your real name. He calls undergrad, has a brief conversation with someone at the other end, and puts the phone down. Turning back to his computer, he says, "Tough luck, Peterson, seems your teaching has been cancelled."

At the end of the scenario, make sure to read your partner Email 4.

Part 5

You rush to the bus stop, keen to get this stressful day behind you. As you march down the corridor you reflect that, try as you might, this specialty just really isn't for you. But before you make it out of the hospital, you're waylaid by one of your lecturers, who has organised this placement. This lecturer is a lovely lady, but she lives and breathes Care of the Elderly, to a point you consider slightly unhealthy. She excitedly asks you if you're enjoying your placement...

Choice A) Tell her that you're having a fantastic time and can't wait to become the geriatrician she always knew you could be.

Choice B) Honestly tell her that you'd rather be a neurologist.

No coin flip for this one. There really is only one way this could go.

A) The lecturer beams with delight and suddenly grabs your arm. Ignoring your protests she steers you towards her office, where she loudly exclaims to her colleagues "We've convinced one!" The resulting buzz of conversation is hard to follow, but you suddenly realise that she's gone online to buy you tickets to a Care of the Elderly conference happening next weekend. She presses the printed ticket into your hand, and you come to the gloomy conclusion that you're never going to catch up on all this work.

At the end of the scenario, make sure to read your partner Email 5.

B) The lecturer smiles forlornly and says, "Oh well, we tried!" Then she leaves for her office, and you quickly head for the hospital door.

Emails

Email 1, for the student who was caught lying about arriving late

To: Medical student
Cc: Your friend
Subject: The register
From: Placement supervisor
Dear students,
It was brought to my attention by one of the receptionists that one of you fraudulently signed the other in this morning. This is a severe breach of the rules of conduct for students, and a significant health and safety risk, as we need to know when you are on and off site.
I expect to see both of you in my office tomorrow at 8am sharp to explain yourselves.
Placement supervisor

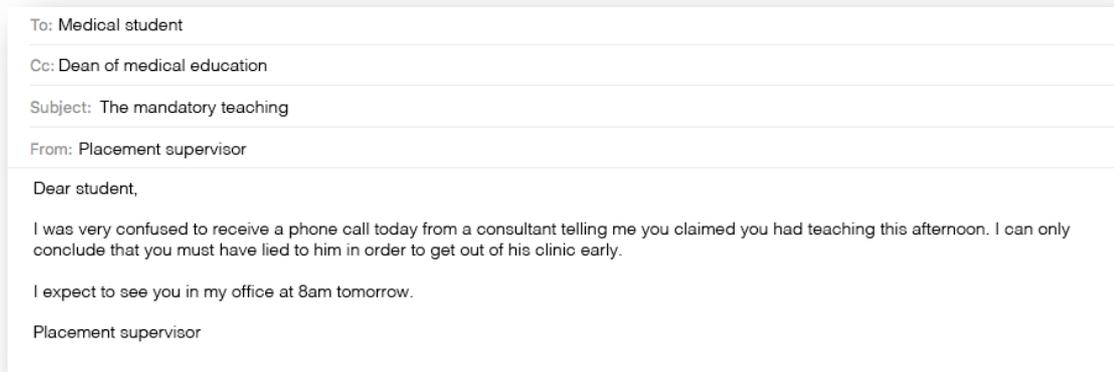
Email 2, for the student who was caught lying about the CBD

To: Medical student
Cc: Dean of medical education
Subject: The CBD
From: Consultant
Dear student,
I am very disappointed that you not only failed to prepare a CBD in time for our meeting today, but that you attempted to trick me with a clearly invented story. My time is extremely limited, and these learning opportunities are provided solely for your benefit.
I expect to see you in my office at 8am tomorrow.
Consultant

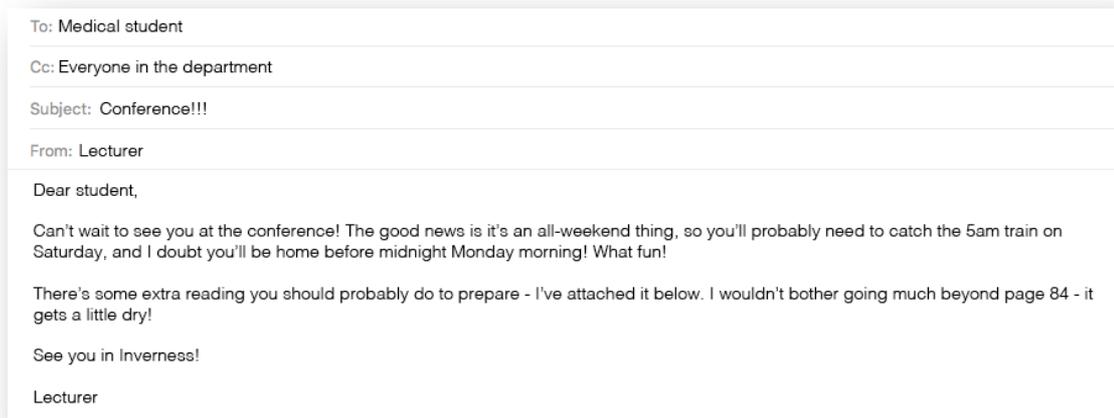
Email 3, for the student who was caught lying about the cannula

To: Medical student
Cc: Consultant
Subject: The cannula
From: Registrar
Dear student,
After you failed to place the cannula this afternoon, the patient was extremely upset and anxious, and it took me nearly an hour to convince her to let me place one instead. She feels that as I misled her about your competence, I may well have been lying about my own.
Honesty to our patients and colleagues is vital if we are to maintain safety and trust in the profession. I expect to see you on the ward at 8 tomorrow morning to discuss this further.
Registrar

Email 4, for the student who was caught lying about the mandatory teaching



Email 5, for the student who lied about how much they were enjoying the placement



The scenario is complete. Let your partner know how well they did. If you have time, try out some of the other choices – would things have worked out better for your partner if they'd been more or less honest?

Resources:

GMC guidance on honesty and integrity

General Medical Council. 2016. *Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students* [Online]. Manchester: GMC. Available at: http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/achieving_good_medical_practice.asp [Accessed 20 September 2017].

72. Doctors hold a trusted position in society and must make sure their conduct – both professionally and personally – justifies their patients' trust in them and the public's trust in the profession.

73. As a student aiming to join a trusted profession, you have to meet a higher standard of behaviour than other students, who are on courses that don't directly lead to joining a profession.

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