

Keele Undergraduate Medical Students learning to work with patients who may have diminished capacity

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Project method

Year 3 consultation skills sessions at Keele include triadic interviewing simulations where students have to establish the level of competence and then manage the following consultations:-

1. A teenager attending a sexual health clinic with a parent (managing discussions around teenage capacity for decision-making). For this scenario trained simulated patients play the role of the 15 year old and her parent.
2. An older person with dementia who declines a flu jab when brought for it by their daughter. For this scenario trained simulated patients play the role of the older person and the daughter.
3. Having discussions around consent for pre-op assessment (and the operation itself) with an adult with intellectual disability. For this scenario we have trained simulators who themselves have intellectual disabilities who we employ as simulated patients. They work with some of our other simulated patients who play the role of support workers.

Students 'consult' with the patient and their accompanying person who then give feedback to them on what they did well and what they might do differently. Each consultation is observed by a clinical tutor and a small group of students who also give feedback and learn from observation and discussion of each other's consultations.

Project results/evaluation

The session evaluation is combined with the Year 3 student end of semester evaluations and are positive.

Project area classification

Hospital care	x	Emergency care	x
GP care	x	Dementia	x
Social care		Learning disability	
Voluntary sector		Other mental health	
Financial services		Palliative care	
Police		Advance planning, LPAs	
Legal		Commissioning	
Community health care		Training	
Nursing and care home		For professionals?	x
Acute care		For public and service users?	
Chronic care			