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Comprehensive Primary Care Assessment and Referral

Practical 01 / Supervised community practicum

Aim

Assess common primary care presentations and give a safe referral or follow-up under supervision.

Principle

Standard assessment, valid measurements and danger-sign recognition support timely care in community settings.

Articles and Materials

- Fictional primary care register, clinical pathways and examination equipment
- Referral and follow-up forms

Procedure

1. Confirm the site, assigned role, available services and current primary care pathway. Verify identity, consent and language support.
2. Ask about onset, symptoms, prior care, medicines and baseline function. Identify respiratory difficulty, instability, severe pain or other urgent signs.
3. Record approved observations and focused findings for the case, such as respiratory, gastrointestinal, urinary or eye symptoms. Use consistent technique and units.
4. Apply the authorised screening or triage criteria and identify which decision needs clinician assessment. Prepare supportive nursing care and education within scope.
5. Discuss warning signs, self-care within the approved plan, follow-up and how to access urgent help. Verify understanding.
6. Send a completed simulated referral with relevant findings, timing, current stability and request. Confirm who will receive and follow the person.
7. Track attendance, results or barriers with the authorised team and arrange review of an unresolved problem.
8. Record assessment, advice, referral, actions and follow-up status in the correct register.

Precautions

- Apply the current community pathway and supervision.
- Communicate urgent signs promptly.

Observations and Record

Comprehensive Primary Care Assessment and Referral

Documentation

Item	What to record	Why it matters
Presentation	Symptoms, findings and urgency	Guides disposition
Care	Authorised action and education	Supports safety
Referral	Receiving team and outcome	Tracks linkage

Worked Example

The clinic case has new respiratory distress. The student alerts the supervising clinician and prepares a direct referral with current observations.

Result and Evaluation

Document a safe first-contact assessment, approved intervention and clearly owned follow-up.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why confirm receipt of a referral?

It establishes responsibility and prevents loss to follow-up.

What supports a useful triage decision?

Relevant symptoms, measured observations and case-specific danger signs.

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