



IntellectAbility
REPLACING RISK WITH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Curriculum in IDD Healthcare

eLearn Course

***Why is this information so important,
and what's unique about this course?***

It's wonderful to see more focus being placed on educating healthcare providers about how to better meet the health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). I've worked in the field for 25 years including more than 20 years providing clinical care to hundreds of people with severe and profound levels of IDD and complex medical and mental health conditions.

I learned first-hand about the need to train healthcare providers through my own ill-preparedness when I began, and I made it my personal mission to take action.

I developed the Curriculum in IDD Healthcare eLearn course to efficiently impart practical, immediately usable information to practicing clinicians and to provide a foundation of IDD healthcare knowledge and skills to medical and other health professional students.

Here are a few facts about the course:

- It was developed by a double board-certified physician with years of intense clinical experience in the field
- It is narrated by a physician
- It includes many real-life case studies illustrating specific clinical and behavioral issues
- It is a 6 module, interactive eLearn course with a 4.5 hour runtime, not including testing
- It incorporates interactive knowledge checks and a post-test at the end of each module
- It includes automatic delivery of either 5 hours of CME credits for physicians or 6 nursing CEUs after successful completion
- The course was reviewed by clinicians at Augusta University as well as advocates, with careful inclusion of their feedback
- It can be amended or expanded upon with custom content to meet the needs of any agency or organization by our in-house eLearn production team

Here are just some of the specific topics covered in the course:

- The “Fatal Five Plus” - aspiration, dehydration, seizures, bowel obstruction/constipation, sepsis, and gastroesophageal reflux and how these present differently in people with IDD
- Osteoporosis
- Skin integrity
- General lab finding considerations
- Alternative nutritional routes
- Dental issues
- Specific work up guidance for conditions like anorexia, fever, hypothermia, seizures, vomiting and abdominal pain addressing conditions more commonly seen in people with IDD
- Emphasis on the relationship between behaviors and medical problems including multiple case studies that identify 10 different groups of medical conditions and which behaviors might be presenting signs of those conditions
- Mental health conditions in people with IDD including specific tips to help make more accurate diagnoses
- Polypharmacy, a very common occurrence in people with IDD, along with principles of good prescribing habits
- How different classes of medications might affect people with IDD differently
- Numerous cases studies of real patient experiences that teach important diagnostic skills
- Specific guidance on improving clinician/patient interactions
- Addressing communication barriers
- The importance of speaking to the patient rather than just the person accompanying them
- Understanding that a different quality of life does not equal a lower quality of life
- Specific lists of questions to ask to help ensure nothing is missed when a diagnoses is not obvious
- In addition, the course includes a download of course materials pertinent to what is being taught



Uses, Reviews, and Validity

- The course was piloted at William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine resulting in a presentation at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Conference in 2021
- Based on the pilot, William Carey University has included it in their curriculum for all incoming freshmen medical students
- It is used by the State of Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to train physicians statewide
- It is used by the provider organization, Cerebral Palsy of New York State, through a grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation to train physicians across NY state
- StationMD, the leading provider of IDD-specific telehealth services, utilizes it to train all of their physicians
- The course has been reviewed and employed by regional IDD authorities in the State of Texas to train clinicians in their catchment areas
- The course is used by Auburn University and University of Illinois, Chicago Colleges of Nursing for nurse practitioner and interdisciplinary training.
- It is currently in review by other agencies, schools and organizations for inclusion in their training offerings.

The focus of the CIDDH is to arm healthcare providers with practical and immediately usable clinical knowledge to improve healthcare for people with IDD. Feedback from clinicians and students who took the course show that it is doing exactly that. You can learn more and read some of the testimonials here: [IDD Training Curriculum](#)

"This course should be mandatory for all medical students: would also benefit mid-level providers and nurses – (in fact, providers from every discipline and level of experience would benefit from this course!"

Jo L. Harbour, MD

This course efficiently delivers the fundamentals of IDD healthcare to clinicians and provides the necessary foundation to be built upon with real-life patient experiences. For more information about the Curriculum in IDD Healthcare including to request access to a demo version of the course, contact me at Craig@ReplacingRisk.com.

My sincerest and warmest regards,



Craig Escude, MD, FAAFP, FAADM
President, IntellectAbility

Context

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have a number of unique health challenges that practicing physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are often unprepared to address.

Curriculum in IDD Healthcare

The Curriculum in IDD Healthcare is an online, 6-module eLearn course created and delivered by a physician with clinical expertise in IDD healthcare. It is designed to teach physicians, nurses, and other clinicians the fundamentals of IDD healthcare as well as improve both general disability competency and true clinical competency in providing healthcare to people with IDD.

The Course Modules Include:

- IDD Basics: Then, Now and Next
- Healthcare Basics in IDD
- Common Behavioral Presentations of Medical Conditions in People with IDD
- Dual Diagnosis in IDD
- Effective Communication for IDD Healthcare
- Bringing it All Together: Case Studies in IDD

Objective

To determine the applicability of using the course to effectively deliver training to both practicing clinicians and health professional school students with the goal of improving clinical competency in the provision of healthcare to people with IDD.

Methods

The course was made available to a variety of clinicians including physicians, nurses, advance practice nurses, medical students, medical and nursing school faculty, speech-language pathologists, and others. Data from a post-course evaluation were collected and analyzed.

Primary Outcome Measures

The course evaluation contained the following sections:

- 1) Overall opinion of the course
- 2) Individual module evaluations to assess the quality of the presentation, handouts, topic value, and overall rating using a 5-point Likert scale
- 3) Self-rated assessment of knowledge of IDD healthcare, confidence in treating people with IDD, and maximum ability to deliver effective medical care to people with IDD pre- and post-course using a 4-point Forced Likert scale

Results

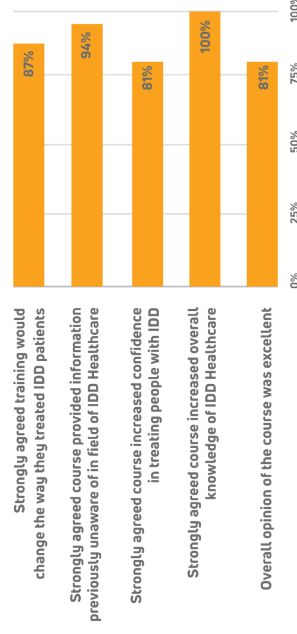
Course participants self-rated their maximum ability to deliver medical care pre- and post-course using a 1-100 point scale with 100 indicating a maximum ability to deliver effective healthcare to people with IDD. Their confidence level improved 62%.

Medical students showed the largest improvement at 108%.



Scan the QR Code or visit ReplacingRisk.com to learn more about the Curriculum in IDD Healthcare eLearn course.

Medical Students Survey Results



Pre- and Post-Course Self-Assessed Clinical Competency

