

GMC Space Academy - Lesson Plan

This lesson should last in the region of 20-25 mins and is designed for 15 – 20 people but could be adapted for more.

Objective

To get current medical students thinking about how they should act during their training in an engaging format, and to show medical students the standard that is expected of them. The focus of the session is honesty and integrity, which is included in 'GMC Good Medical Practice' - Domain 4: Maintaining Trust.

Take Home Messages (included in presentation)

1. Doctors hold a trusted position in society and honesty is key in earning that trust.
2. Don't act like other students may do - as a medical student you will be held to a higher standard than most.
3. It is important to act with honesty and integrity always, not only on placements. This means from the moment you apply to medical school.
4. The medical school should offer you help in any situations of difficulty, seeking support early is best.

Overview

This activity involves going through several scenarios (included on accompanying Powerpoint presentation) faced by 'George', a budding space cadet. The scenarios are choices that George must make throughout his journey and are designed to mirror the sort of situations that a medical student will likely face during their training. The setting of space was chosen in a hope to improve engagement and interest in the session, whilst mirroring the high levels of responsibility associated with the medical profession.

The idea of the scenarios is to stimulate discussion, focussed around what would be the best way to act with honesty and integrity in each of the given situations. The medical students should be able to draw parallels between what happens in space academy and their own profession. Throughout the presentation, the scenarios **will not be explicitly related to medicine** until the specific slide prompting this relation. Therefore, up until this point, all references are to 'space' and 'space cadets'.

Notes regarding the relevant GMC guidance for each scenario is included in the 'Notes' section of the powerpoint presentation.

How the session will run

1. Students are divided into groups.
2. Use presentation to run through the scenarios
3. Students write down what they would do in the different situations (cards to write on provided).
4. Comparison of scenarios to medical training.
5. Take home messages.

Detailed Plan

Slides 1-4: Introduction, 4 mins (Total: 4)

Slide 1: Introduction and division of students into groups of 3-5 with single Handout per group (Appendix 1).

Slide 2: This is 'George', the space cadet we'll be following through Space Academy. Brief reminder of the 4 domains that make up good medical practice. Each domain has been linked to a piece of equipment needed for space academy. Emphasise that there are many different aspects to being a good space cadet.

Slide 3: Go through what the captain says. This slide focusses the student's attention specifically on the 'Honesty and Integrity' aspect of professionalism.

Slide 4: How would you define honesty and integrity? Encourage verbal responses to the question, not looking for a correct answer, just brief discussion. If the group seems hesitant, ask for examples of when these characteristics are shown, or people who have integrity and ask what about the way they act gives that impression.

Slides 5-9: To Sign or Not to Sign, 4 mins (Total: 8)

Slide 5: Scenario premise is explained to students.

Slide 6: Students are asked to discuss in their groups what issues are raised and write down what they would do in this situation.

Slide 7: Show what George did.

Slide 8: Show the captain's reaction.

Slide 9: Students are asked to share what they wrote down.

This format can be repeated for the remaining scenarios.

Slides 10-14: Zero Gravity, Zero Results, 4 mins (Total: 12)

Slides 15-19: Reactor Core Competency, 4 mins (Total: 16)

Slides 20-24: Feeling Lost in Space, 4 mins (Total: 20)

Slides 25-29: Rounding up, 4 mins (Total: 24)

Slide 25: Ask the students to say what each scenario could be related to in medical school. e.g., using someone else's results is plagiarism of work. It is likely that the students have already drawn these associations and should not take long.

Slide 26: This slide is the captain talking to George. It demonstrates that there can ultimately be consequences for behaving in a way that is not appropriate as a medical student.

Slide 27: The students are asked think about how they would have done based on the answers that they gave and the slide helps to reinforce that acting with honesty and integrity is essential to you and those you work with as a student and doctor.

Slide 28: Quick run through of the most important take home messages of the scenarios.

Louis Darby & Josh Burns, year 5, King's College London

Slide 29: Students are pointed towards the relevant guidance from the GMC. The students are advised that the guidance for medical schools is very useful as this gives examples of what constitutes misconduct and what can become a fitness to practise issue.