

Title: PRESENTATION OF AN E-MODULE FOR DENTAL CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Authors: Bakas A., Kavadella A., Kossioni A., Tzoutzas I. and Tsiklakis K.

Institution: School of Dentistry, University of Athens, Greece

Aims. To present the basic elements - regarding content, structure and design - that constitute the framework of an educational e-module on “Sterilization and cross-infection control”, intended for the continuing professional development of European dentists.

Materials and Methods. A team was organized, including dental academics and professionals, an e-learning expert and a computer programmer. The team decided on the content, the structure and the design principles and developed an electronic course (module) on a core topic subject for dental professionals. The e-module consisted of an interactive internet site, divided in three main areas (columns): the menu area, the study area and the related information area. The menu area displays an introduction, the aims and expected outcomes of the module and the different study options, i.e. the chapters of the subject. The whole content was divided in 10 chapters, that can be read sequentially or in random order, according to the individual needs of the reader. The study (content) area occupied the majority of the available space and included the relevant text, images, tables, self-assessment quizzes, conclusions and key-points. The related information area included relative internet sites.

Results. As the distance learners are totally dependent on the e-material, the module was structured in a way to promote self-study and self-learning: a) directs learners through their study b) promotes interaction c) is explanatory d) enables the self-assessment of the learners and provides feedback. The design of the module followed the principles for effective visual learning: colours, frames, navigation symbols, highlighted texts and pop-up windows were used to direct the reader and to organise the content in a clear, standardized way.

Conclusions. The creation of the e-module for dental continuing professional development includes the manipulation of the content and the design of the internet page according to distance learning principles. (Project supported by the Erasmus-LLP project, DentCPD, ref: 509961-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-ERASMUS-EMHE).

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