

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF PRIMARY CARE

Module Code:	GPNO4
Credit weighting:	10 ECTS
Contact hours:	4 (plus allow 3hrs per week x6 weeks distance learning)
Dates:	Workshops: 08/09/10 10am-12noon; 13/12/10 10am-12noon. Online distance learning: 24/09/10 – 09/12/10
Module leaders:	Prof. Andrew W Murphy, General Practice, NUI Galway Dr. Mary Byrne, General Practice, NUI Galway

Module description

Starfield has defined primary care as being ‘first-contact, continuous, comprehensive and co-ordinated care undifferentiated by gender, disease or organ system’. Recent national and international policy developments have stressed that primary care is best delivered by a team of professionals working in the community. This module aims to provide primary care practitioners with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to allow them to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams within the changing health care environment.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this module the student will be expected to be able to:

1. analyse the development and role of primary care in the health services
2. appraise various models of primary health care delivery
3. evaluate the structure and function of primary care teams
4. appreciate the roles and responsibilities of other professionals within the primary care team
5. act as an effective member of a multidisciplinary team.

Module content

- Primary care: introduction and definitions
- Evolution and structure of health services in Ireland
- Primary care morbidity
- Analysis of key features and effectiveness of primary care
- International systems of health care delivery
- Public policy informing development of primary care
- Primary healthcare teams and team-working.

Teaching and learning strategies

This module will be delivered through a combination of distance learning (via Blackboard), one face-to-face lecture, and a round-table discussion with a representative from HSE Primary Care Development.

Reading List

- Starfield B. *Primary Care: Balancing Health Needs, Services and Technology*. Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Pearson P, Spencer J. *Promoting Teamwork in Primary Care*. London: Arnold, 1997.
- Barrington R. *Health Medicine and Politics in Ireland 1900-1970*. Dublin. Institute of Public Administration. 1987

Assessment strategy

10%: attendance at face-to-face sessions

45%: continuous assessment (E-tivities and online participation)

45%: assignment on completion of module (1,500 words).