

Case Re-Numbering

As of May 1, 2010, case 11b will be re-numbered and become case 36. If you are currently requiring your students to do case 11b, please note this change in your syllabi. The current case 11b describes Mr. Berlusconi, a 45 year-old man with end stage liver disease who presents to the hospital with increasing ascites. This case was originally grouped with case 11a, which describes a man who has abnormal liver function tests and presents much earlier in the course of liver disease. The case content will not change. We are making the change in order to simplify the SIMPLE case numbers (pardon the pun).

SIMPLE Research

Virtual patient research is in its early stages, but we are moving the research agenda forward. A pilot study examining students' responses to different case formats was conducted in mid-April. One of the goals of this study was to develop an assessment tool that can be used in future, larger studies. This randomized, controlled trial varied the type and degree of social context provided in the cases. A portion of cases eliminated the overt references to the students' role on the team, dialogue with other team members and the patient, images of the patient or team members, and specific references to the context (e.g. ED, hospital), unless it was essential to understanding the clinical content. We will be analyzing the data and plan to report our findings soon.

SIMPLE Editorial Board

The seven member editorial board ensures SIMPLE cases remain aligned with the CDIM curriculum and current advances in internal medicine. Working closely with individual case editors, the editorial board continues to capitalize on the wealth of shared knowledge and teaching experience created during the collaborative development of SIMPLE. Editorial board members serve a renewable 2-year term and are required to have first been case authors.

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The success of the SIMPLE program is built on the collaborative commitments of the Institute for Innovative Technology In Medical Education and the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine.



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