Clinical Self-Assessment Roadmap

Before you begin your Clinical Self-Assessment, we strongly recommend that you take a moment to read through this roadmap. The CSA roadmap and tutorial are provided to enhance your skill and comfort levels in completing the Clinical Self-Assessment activity (CSA).

We highly recommended that you view the CSA tutorial and print out a copy of this roadmap for quick reference.

Upon entering the activity, note several characteristics of the screen: the upper, right hand panel provides the patient's name, age, and vital signs. The center panel initially provides a description of the activity task, including information regarding the Strength of Recommendation Taxonomy (SORT) used in the feedback statement that you will receive at the end of your activity (this message will clear as you begin taking actions.) The left hand panel includes the components of the clinical examination (History, Physical, Office Laboratories, etc.).

To begin interacting with the CSA, click on Present Illness in the left hand panel. Notice that the patient's chief complaint now appears in the center panel. You may then enter your historical questions in the textbox displayed in the middle of the screen when you click on "Review of Systems". The responses to your queries will appear in the center panel. Queries that yield abnormal or positive responses also write to the right hand panel, with a link to facilitate quick rechecking on subsequent visits.

Click on Past History to get a summary of the patient's pertinent past history. Click on ROS to enter specific Review of Systems queries.

Click on General under the Physical label in the left hand panel to begin your physical examination. You will see a general description of the patient appear in the center panel. Click on each of the physical examination components that you feel are appropriate for the clinical scenario. Abnormal or positive findings write also to the right hand panel to facilitate rechecking on subsequent visits.

The Office Studies area provides access to laboratory procedures that physicians commonly have available in their offices (e.g., urinalysis, hematocrit.) Click on Order to order these tests. The available tests will appear in the center panel. Simply check the tests you want and click GET Results.

Under Assessment, you can enter your working diagnoses by clicking on Diagnosis. Note that these entries can and most likely will be simply problem statements early in the activity.

The Diagnostic Studies tab in the left panel provides access to the more advanced laboratories and procedures that the family physician usually has to order from outside laboratories or consultants. Clicking on the Diagnostic Studies tab opens in the center panel a list of the categories of procedures available. Simply click on the one/s you want. Note that test results will not become available until the patient has left the office and had the test/s done.

To begin treatments, click on Treatment in the left hand panel. This will open a dialogue box in the
center panel. Enter your treatment in this box. This will yield a listing of treatments that match your entry; simply click on the one you want. Remember however that the treatment will not take effect until the patient has left the office and filled the prescription (or seen a consultant, etc.).

Click on Disposition in the left hand panel to send the patient to the next visit. The center panel appearance changes to include a NEXT VISIT button. Click on NEXT VISIT to schedule the interval to the next visit. Click on GO TO NEXT VISIT to send the patient to the next clinic visit. Note that, if you ordered outside laboratories (e.g. Comprehensive Metabolic Panel), you will receive notification when the result becomes available. If, on the basis of these results, you wish to have the patient return before the next scheduled appointment, you will have the option to do so.

On the return visit, recheck those components of the history/physical/laboratory that you feel are appropriate for managing the particular clinical scenario that your patient presents. When you feel that you have managed your patient successfully, click on End Simulation to end the scenario and receive your assessment feedback.

You may also suspend the activity at any time by clicking on Suspend Activity. When you return to the activity, you will return at the point you left off.

Several other buttons provide access to specific pieces of information in the CSA. Under PROGRESS NOTES, the VISITS tab provides a summary of the information obtained at each of the patient's visits. The SUMMARY SHEET tab provides access to flowcharts that summarize pertinent clinical information as appropriate for the clinical context. Below the center panel, the STUDIES RESULTS provides access to a summary of laboratory and other studies performed. The TREATMENT HISTORY provides a summary of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapeutic interventions that you've undertaken during the activity.

The activity will not end automatically. You should manage the patient until s/he is stable and you feel you've done all that you would like to in order to successfully manage the patient's problem. At this point, you should click on End Activity, which will end the activity and provide you with feedback regarding your management. This will complete your Clinical Self-Assessment.