General Medical Council

Aims

- to involve pupils in a simulation exercise which will present them with difficult choices
- to provide pupils with insights into the process of medical prioritisation
- to contribute to the assessment of En1.

Learning objectives

In the course of this simulation pupils will be required to:

- work co-operatively as a member of a home group
- argue a case as a delegate in a representative group
- adopt a role in a meeting
- write for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Assessment objectives

Pupils will be observed and assessed according to the En1 coursework mark scheme on their ability to work as part of a group, discussing, arguing and persuading. In addition, the role play at the end of the project introduces an element of drama and the possibility of an individual contribution.

Resources

- patient profiles.
- ‘new’ GMC treatment criteria sheets.

Scenario

Haemochlorisis is a disease whereby the body is unable to clear toxic chlorides from the blood. It is progressive, debilitating and eventually fatal. Treatment takes several years and is very expensive but does lead to a complete cure. There is a long waiting list.

Two treatments have become available and five counties (Maycomb County, Westmorland, Wessex, Ruttleshine and Spokane County) have been asked to submit candidates for the treatment for consideration by the General Medical Council ...
Procedure

- Learning and assessment objectives are explained to the class.
- The general scenario is explained to the class.
- Each pupil is given a patient profile and informed that they will be supporting that patient at the next meeting of the County Health Authority. They must prepare a convincing argument.
- Pupils are placed in ‘home groups’ – their own County Health Authorities – and required to work co-operatively to decide on one or two patients to be recommended for treatment.
- Committee stage. Depending on size of class, five or six representative committees are established comprising at least one member of each of the five County Health Authorities. Each committee’s brief is to recommend two patients to the General Medical Council.
- Delegates return to home groups to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their candidates. They may at this stage wish to review their own decisions about which candidates to forward to the GMC.
- GMC produces a ‘new’ treatment criteria document (see final page).
- Each home group prepares a case to be presented to GMC. All members of the group to be involved in preparing roles as, for example, doctors, patients, experts, character witnesses, family members, work colleagues etc. etc. who will give evidence before GMC in support of their candidate(s).
- GMC (at least two teachers) meets and each county presents its case. GMC may take into account recommendations of representative committees when deliberating, but it is not bound by them; they must, however, bear in mind the treatment criteria.

Writing

- reflection by pupils at each stage of the project
- ‘evidence’ to put before the GMC
- correspondence (e.g. with patients informing them of progress/success/failure of their case; letters of appeal etc)
- report of proceedings.
SPOKANE COUNTY

Name: Stanley Harvey  Age: 48

Occupation: Poet and playwright

Family circumstances: Stanley Harvey is unmarried. His mother is still alive.


Other notes: Stanley Harvey is a world-famous poet and playwright. His work brings joy to millions. He has been called the greatest writer in English since William Shakespeare. Generations to come will appreciate his creations. He is on the short-list for the Nobel Prize for Literature and has promised to donate money to haemochlorosis and Aids research.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Name: Albert Ball V.C.  Age: 72

Occupation: Retired

Family circumstances: Albert lives with his wife Florence. They have three daughters and nine grandchildren and, so far, three great grandchildren.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Albert suffers from rheumatism and has had trouble with his prostate gland. Otherwise in good health for age. Non-smoker. Light drinker.

Other notes: Albert still lives an active life, gardening and caring for his family. He won the VC in World War II risking his life several times to save colleagues in the daring parachute raid at Arnhem. His two brothers gave their lives for their country.
Name: Mary Smith  
Age: 33

Occupation:  
Housewife

Family circumstances:  
Lives with husband and three children: 8, 5 and 2. Mary also looks after her elderly father who lives at the family home.

Medical notes:  
Progressive haemochlorosis. Weak eyesight. Does not smoke or consume alcohol.

Other notes:  
Mary was a nurse before she had her family.

Name: Louise Smith  
Age: 8

Occupation:  
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Family circumstances:  
Eldest daughter of Mary Smith (above).

Medical notes:  
Progressive haemochlorosis. Weak eyesight.

Other notes:  
Fell behind at school before weak eyesight was diagnosed. Dyslexic, but otherwise making good progress. Neighbours say Louise has a ‘heart of gold’.
SPOKANE COUNTY

Name: Wesley Carr  Age: 22

Occupation:
Athlete

Family circumstances:
Wesley is engaged to Sonya Baptiste, a hurdler who runs for Britain. His parents are separated. He shares a flat with a friend.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Apart from this problem Wesley is in perfect shape. Does not smoke or drink.

Other notes:
Wesley holds the British Junior 100m record and is one of our most promising young athletes.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Name: Reg Wolfe  Age: 41

Family circumstances:
Divorced. Four children by two wives.

Occupation:
Market tradesman.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Hardened arteries and persistent cough due to smoking habit.

Other notes:
Reg runs a market hardware stall started by his father 54 years ago. Training the two teenagers by his first marriage how to run the business. This is his only contact with them. It keeps them away from the shoplifting gang they used to be part of. If Reg cannot run the stall until one of them is old enough to take over, the business will have to be closed down. He also must pay regular maintenance for his other two children or he will not be allowed access to them.
MAYCOMB COUNTY

Name: Arthur Healey    Age: 60

Occupation:
Managing Director – Healey Biscuits Ltd.

Family circumstances:
Married – three children in their twenties (two sons and a daughter) – four grandchildren and another on the way.

Medical notes:

Other notes:
Mr Healey is a millionaire who still plays an important role in managing his company which provides employment for 115 people. He is willing to donate £50,000 to Maycomb County Medical trust if selected and £250,000 to the National Medical Foundation if treated.

MAYCOMB COUNTY

Name: Verona Burke    Age: 24

Occupation:
Unemployed

Family circumstances:
Miss Burke is the mother of four children under six years of age. They rarely see their fathers.

Medical notes:
Miss Burke is no longer a heroin addict although she does take prescribed tranquilizers and sleeping tablets. Smoker (15 per day). Moderate drinker. Otherwise no health problems (except progressive haemochlorisis).

Other notes:
Social services report that although she is under a lot of stress Verona seems to be a good mother, and her children are kept clean and well fed.
**MAYCOMB COUNTY**

**Name:** Tom Ryan       **Age:** 2

**Occupation:** —

**Family circumstances:**
Tom is the only child of Mr and Mrs J Ryan.

**Medical notes:**
Tom suffers from asthma and is partially deaf in his left ear. Progressive haemochlorosis identified after bad bout of whooping cough.

**Other notes:**
Mr and Mrs Ryan have been married for ten years. They would like more children but doctors think it unlikely that Mrs Ryan will become pregnant again due to narrowing of fallopian tubes.

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**MAYCOMB COUNTY**

**Name:** Lee Hart       **Age:** 14

**Occupation:**
School student.

**Family circumstances:**
Lives with parents and younger sister.

**Medical notes:**
Progressive haemochlorisis – otherwise physically fit.

**Other notes:**
Lee is a bright student who should get five grade Cs (or more) at GCSE. He works hard and is in the school football team.
MAYCOMB COUNTY

Name: Professor Jane Kitson  Age: 44

Occupation:
Scientist

Family circumstances:
Professor Kitson is divorced. She has a teenage daughter at Oxford University.

Medical notes:

Other notes:
Professor Kitson leads a team of medical researchers into progressive haemochlorisis. She reports that her team are on the verge of a breakthrough in the treatment of the disease and that within five years a cheaper and quicker cure could be developed.

MAYCOMB COUNTY

Name: Naomi Shilling  Age: 72

Family circumstances:
No living relatives

Occupation:
Reverend Mother of Carmelite Convent

Medical notes:

Other notes:
Sister Naomi leads a small group of nuns dedicated to the care of the homeless. She raises thousands of pounds through her tireless fund-raising efforts. All the money goes into feeding and sheltering the homeless. None of the other sisters share her qualities of strong leadership and management, and it is felt that they would not be able to continue the work without her.
### WESTMORLAND

**Name:** Len Quiff  
**Age:** 20

**Occupation:** Singer

**Family circumstances:**  
Len is unmarried. He shares a flat with other members of the group, Now What? His parents are separated. He was an only child.

**Medical notes:**  
Progressive haemochlorisis. Suspicion of occasional drug use. Smokes 20 cigarettes per day. Drinks moderately.

**Other notes:**  
Len is lead singer in a group called Now What? Their records sell in millions and all their concerts are sell-outs. He also writes the songs. Len claims not to be wealthy as their manager keeps most of the profits. A petition has been signed by 75,000 fans for Len to be given the treatment.

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### WESTMORLAND

**Name:** Sally Quinn  
**Age:** 14

**Occupation:** School pupil

**Family circumstances:**  
Adopted. The only child of Mr and Mrs Quinn. Mr Quinn is disabled, having suffered an accident in his work as a delivery driver. Mrs Quinn is a traffic warden.

**Medical notes:**  
Progressive haemochlorisis. In all other respects Sally’s physical development is normal for her age.

**Other notes:**  
Sally is a gifted pupil. Her teachers predict nine grade As at GCSE and a university place eventually. She helps her mother care for her father. She is a talented chess player and sings in her church choir.
Doctors’ dilemma

WESTMORLAND

Name: Hilary Parsons  Age: 50

Occupation: Headteacher

Family circumstances: Married to a teacher. They have two children at university.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Suffers from nervous tension and high blood-pressure. Conditions controlled by medication.

Other notes: Mrs Parsons is headteacher of Westbridge Comprehensive and is respected for her caring approach to the pupils. She finds the job exhausting and unless she receives treatment she will be forced to retire at the end of this year.

WESTMORLAND

Name: Wayne Leach  Age: 15

Occupation: School pupil

Family circumstances: Wayne is in care. He was abused as a young child. His father is in prison and his mother cannot be traced.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Eczema.

Other notes: Wayne is a slow learner with a reading age of six. His social worker describes him as ‘A sad case. The world has not been kind to Wayne. He is a decent lad beneath the disturbed behaviour and he should be given a chance for once in his life.’ He was once warned about shoplifting but has not been in trouble since then.
Name: Asif Malik  Age: 34

Occupation:
Doctor

Family circumstances:
Asif Malik has recently married. The couple have no children as yet, but Mrs Malik is pregnant.

Medical notes:

Other notes:
Doctor Malik lists his hobbies as squash, cookery, reading and music. He works at the renal unit at the hospital one day a week, researching alternative dialysis methods.

Name: Gabriel Elms  Age: 40

Family circumstances:
Wife and two young children. The living he makes on his hill farm depends on his health.

Occupation:
Sheep farmer running three dogs.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis.

Other notes:
Takes champion dogs to sheepdog trials. Leads traditional way of life. Part of country community. Helps out neighbouring farmers if they’re ill. Member of mountain rescue team in spare time. Has saved the lives of four people in the last year.
RUTTLESHELIRE COUNTY

Name: Fr. Kevin Walsh  Age: 59

Occupation:
Parish priest

Family circumstances:
Has elderly mother living in Presbytery with him.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Also contracted malaria while on African missions.

Other notes: Fr. Walsh is also the hospital chaplain, and is on call there throughout the week. Since he arrived at his parish the mass attendance has doubled, a youth group has been started, and many social activities are planned throughout the year. He is planning to build a new parish centre within the next two years.

RUTTLESHELIRE COUNTY

Name: Lynne Rodderick  Age: 34

Occupation:
Mature student

Family circumstances:
Separated from husband and three children.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Otherwise healthy.

Other notes:
Ms Rodderick has recently begun to build a new life for herself. Having felt that she’d married and had children too young, she wanted to explore her full potential by returning to higher education. After gaining four A Levels at grades ABBC she has secured a place to study law at university. Her ambition is to be a barrister.
RUTTLESHIRE COUNTY

Name: Nancy Rix    Age: 25

Occupation: House parent – Ruttleshire Young Offender’s Unit.

Family circumstances: Family unknown. Nancy was abandoned on steps of police station when two weeks old. Spent childhood in orphanage until age of 12, when fostered by chief probation officer and his wife.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Suffers from occasional bouts of depression.

Other notes: Nancy shows a deep understanding of the youngsters in her care. She has helped several of them to reform and seek a more positive life style. She regularly corresponds with both ex-offenders and their parents.

RUTTLESHIRE COUNTY

Name: Ruth Rodderick    Age: 15

Occupation: Schoolgirl

Family circumstances: Father and two younger sisters. Mother left family to start a new life and career.

Medical notes: Progressive haemochlorisis. Suffers from anxiety.

Other notes: Ruth is a promising student who is capable of doing well at GCSE. She’s under a lot of pressure at home. Her father works long hours and she has to get the younger children off to school each morning. In the evening she gets their tea and supervises them until her father gets home. She’s often too tired for homework.
RUTTLESHIRE COUNTY

Name: Simon Parkinson VC    Age: 32

Occupation:
Soldier: Captain in Royal Fusiliers

Family circumstances:
Youngest son of Colonel Gordon Parkinson. Two older brothers died of progressive haemochlorisis in childhood. Married with four year old daughter.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Simon also suffers some affects of Gulf War Syndrome.

Other notes:
Simon was awarded a Victoria Cross for bravery in his assignments in the Gulf. He advanced beyond enemy lines and led a crushing attack on the Iraqi defences.

RUTTLESHIRE COUNTY

Name: Sam Murray    Age: 23

Family circumstances: Engaged to be married to childhood sweetheart. Widowed mother looking forward to having the couple living with her.

Occupation:
Jockey

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Survived leukaemia in early teens.

Other notes: Sam has ridden six winners this year. He is being sought after by the most successful horse owners and is tipped to win the Grand National on ‘Pepper’s Run’ if his progressive haemochlorisis can be successfully treated. Has been the subject of a scientific study on the treatment of childhood cancers. This is an ongoing study which is hoped to continue until he reaches 40.
WESSEX

Name: Cyril Hewitt  Age: 44

Family circumstances:
Wife, two teenaged children.

Occupation:
Headmaster.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Occasional migraines.

Other notes:
Cyril took over as headmaster of Joseph Mellor High School last term when it was judged to be a failing school by the Ofsted inspectors. He has already managed to turn the school around by introducing staff training courses and generally raising the esteem of the pupils. He has developed a three year plan to raise the achievement level of the school.

WESSEX

Name: Emma Hartley  Age: 1 month

Occupation: —

Family circumstances:
Sixth child in family.

Medical notes:
Emma was born four weeks prematurely. Because her lungs are not fully developed she cannot breathe unaided and must be kept in an incubator. She has to be fed through a tube. It is thought that there has been some brain damage but the extent of it is not yet known. Although progressive haemochlorisis has not been established yet, tests have shown that Emma is carrying the defective gene and will develop the disease at some time. It is thought that early treatment will prevent the disease from starting.

Other notes:
Emma’s parents are both unemployed. They live in a run down council house that is in a constant state of neglect. Their children have been placed on the ‘at risk’ register at the social service department after neighbours twice reported they had been left in the home unsupervised. If this happens again they will be taken into care.
Doctors’ dilemma

WESSEX

Name: Gary Newton  Age: 25

Occupation: Unemployed/Lottery winner

Family circumstances:
Gary was thrown out of home by his parents at the age of 17 because he was continually out drinking and getting into trouble with the police. Two brothers – who were also made to leave home. None of the family kept in contact with each other.

Medical notes:
Progressive haemochlorisis. Alcoholism. Extensive liver damage has been diagnosed. Currently undergoing treatment for Hepatitis B and AIDS.

Other notes:
Gary won £28 million on the National Lottery roll-over. He has said that if he is chosen to receive the treatment and can be totally cured he will fund the entire progressive haemochlorisis programme throughout the country. This means that all sufferers of this disease, both present and future, can be offered the treatment. However, he has stressed that he will not authorise any funding unless he regains full health himself.

WESSEX

Name: Rory Huggon  Age: 31

Occupation: Computer programmer

Family circumstances:
Married to nurse. One child.

Medical notes:
Rory lost the use of his legs after breaking his back during a skiing competition when he was 19. Progressive haemochlorisis has recently been diagnosed and it is thought the disease will spread rapidly because of the poor circulation in his legs.

Other notes:
Rory is one of Britain’s most promising contenders in the European Wheelchair Athletics Championships to be held in eight months time. If he can finish in the top three of his event he will be guaranteed a place in the Paraplegic Olympics in two years time. He works full time and is a valued member of the firm. He is currently writing a book of self help and advice for newly disabled people and is a counsellor at the hospital’s spinal injuries unit.
WESSEX

**Name:** Heather White  **Age:** 46

**Occupation:**
Runs sanctuary for unwanted pets

**Family circumstances:**
Unmarried. One sister in Australia.

**Medical notes:**

**Other notes:**
Heather runs her pet sanctuary at her home. As well as taking in strays, she accepts any sick or injured wildlife that people bring to her. She lets any interested children help her to care for the animals after school, and has been in to school to give talks on animal welfare. She funds the sanctuary by offering a pet-sitting service.

WESSEX

**Name:** Liz Graham  **Age:** 36

**Occupation:**
Receptionist

**Family circumstances:**
Separated. Two children, temporarily living with grandparents.

**Medical notes:**
Progressive haemochlorisis.

**Other notes:**
Liz is the key witness in the trial of drugs baron and alleged murderer Trevor Bunton. Her life has been threatened and a kidnap attempt made. She is currently under police protection at a secret address. Police have had Trevor Bunton under surveillance for three years. His gang is responsible for the high number of drug addictions and associated crimes in the area, but it was not until he killed a rival dealer in view of Liz that anyone has dared to speak up against him. The defence team are doing all in their power to delay court proceedings until Liz becomes too ill to take part.
Memo

From: Chairman of the General Medical Council

To: All County Health Authorities.

Re: Haemochlorisis treatment waiting list

Please note that the Treatment Committee of the GMC has, after consultation with the Secretary of State for Health, framed the following revised criteria for selection for treatment of haemochlorisis.

Patients will be selected who:

- Are in good general health
- Have an otherwise good life-expectancy
- Have a healthy life-style
- Have dependent relatives
- Make a significant contribution to the cultural or sporting life of the community.