Online course for prison doctors

- The idea was formed a late afternoon in May 2001
- Cooperation between World Medical Association, Norwegian Medical Association, International Committee of Red Cross
- Established an international editorial committee
- Contributors from various countries and organisations
- Launched in 2004

Distribution

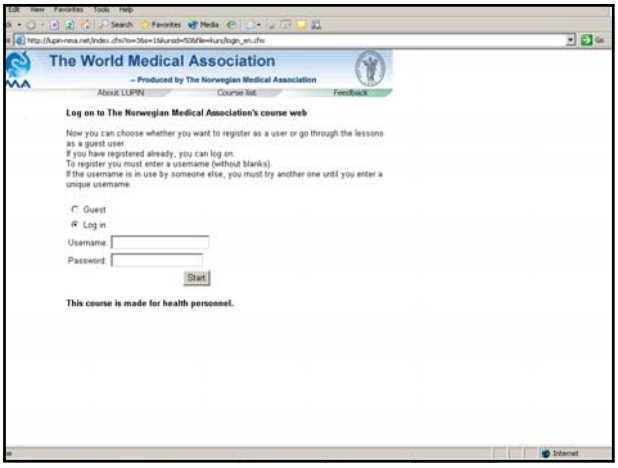
- Main distributor: World Medical Association
- Accessible also from other web sites WHO, NMA etc

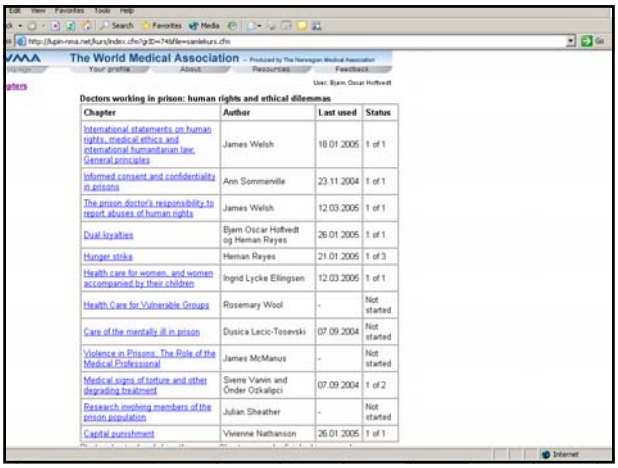
Why Internet ?

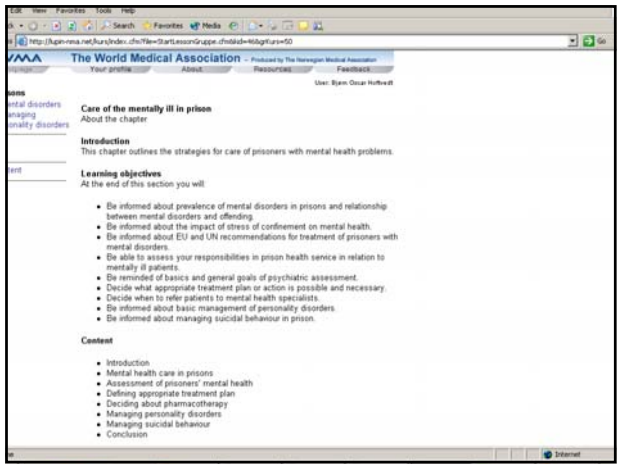
- Efficient distribution
- Accessibility
- Easy to update
- Integrate text, pictures, videos, links
- More difficult to control by the authorities
- Efficient learning method?

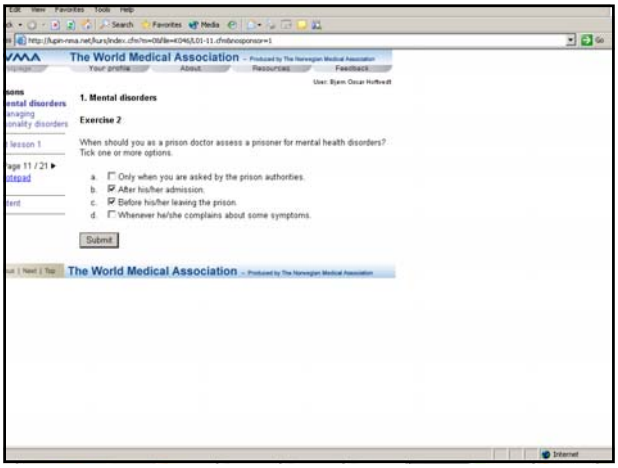
Credit points

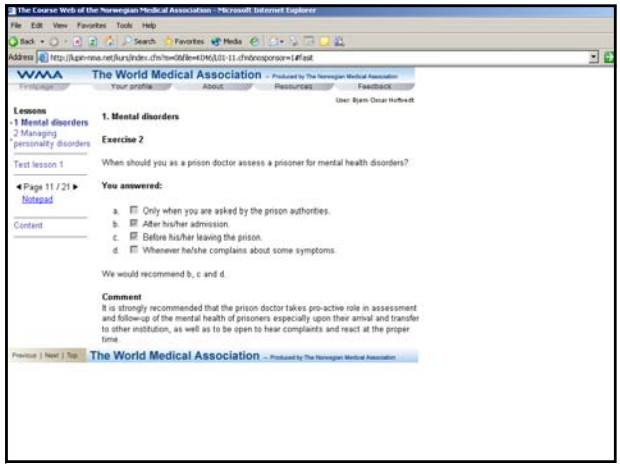
- The Norwegian Medical Association has accredited the course with 12 hours/points in post-graduate and continuing education.
- When a doctor has finished all the chapters, completed the tests and the evaluations, she will be asked if she wants a diploma. If she answers yes, a diploma will be sent by e-mail.




The World Medical Association
Doctors working in prison: human rights and ethical dilemmas
Chapter
Author
Last used
Status
International statements on human rights, medical ethics and international humanitarian law: General principles
James Welsh
18.01.2005
1 of 1
Informed consent and confidentiality in prisons
Ann Sommerville
23.11.2004
1 of 1
The prison doctor's responsibility to report abuses of human rights
James Welsh
12.03.2005
1 of 1
Dual loyalties
Bjørn Oscar Hoffvedt og Hernan Reyes
26.01.2005
1 of 1
Hunger strike
Hernan Reyes
21.01.2005
1 of 3
Health care for women, and women accompanied by their children
Ingrid Lycke Ellingsen
12.03.2005
1 of 1
Health Care for Vulnerable Groups
Rosemary Wool
-
Not started
Care of the mentally ill in prison
Dusica Lecic-Tosevski
07.09.2004
Not started
Violence in Prisons: The Role of the Medical Professional
James McManus
-
Not started
Medical signs of torture and other degrading treatment
Sverre Varvin and Önder Özkalipci
07.09.2004
1 of 2
Research involving members of the prison population
Julian Sheather
-
Not started
Capital punishment
Vivienne Nathanson
26.01.2005
1 of 1


The World Medical Association
Care of the mentally ill in prison
About the chapter
Introduction
This chapter outlines the strategies for care of prisoners with mental health problems.
Learning objectives
At the end of this section you will
Be informed about prevalence of mental disorders in prisons and relationship between mental disorders and offending.
Be informed about the impact of stress of confinement on mental health.
Be informed about EU and UN recommendations for treatment of prisoners with mental disorders.
Be able to assess your responsibilities in prison health service in relation to mentally ill patients.
Be reminded of basics and general goals of psychiatric assessment.
Decide what appropriate treatment plan or action is possible and necessary.
Decide when to refer patients to mental health specialists.
Be informed about basic management of personality disorders.
Be informed about managing suicidal behaviour in prison.
Content
Introduction
Mental health care in prisons
Assessment of prisoners' mental health
Defining appropriate treatment plan
Deciding about pharmacotherapy
Managing personality disorders
Managing suicidal behaviour
Conclusion


The World Medical Association
1. Mental disorders
Exercise 2
When should you as a prison doctor assess a prisoner for mental health disorders?
Tick one or more options.
a. Only when you are asked by the prison authorities.
b. After his/her admission.
c. Before his/her leaving the prison.
d. Whenever he/she complains about some symptoms.
Submit
The World Medical Association


The Course Web of the Norwegian Medical Association - Microsoft Internet Explorer
The World Medical Association
Lessons
1 Mental disorders
2 Managing personality disorders
Test lesson 1
Page 11 / 21
Notepad
Content
1. Mental disorders
Exercise 2
When should you as a prison doctor assess a prisoner for mental health disorders?
You answered:
a. Only when you are asked by the prison authorities.
b. After his/her admission.
c. Before his/her leaving the prison.
d. Whenever he/she complains about some symptoms.
We would recommend b, c and d.
Comment
It is strongly recommended that the prison doctor takes pro-active role in assessment and follow-up of the mental health of prisoners especially upon their arrival and transfer to other institution, as well as to be open to hear complaints and react at the proper time.
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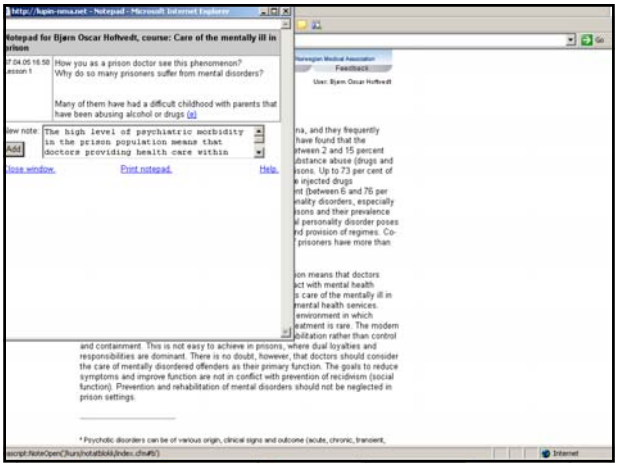
Notepad for Bjørn Oscar Hoffvedt, course: Care of the mentally ill in prison
How you as a prison doctor see this phenomenon?
Why do so many prisoners suffer from mental disorders?
Many of them have had a difficult childhood with parents that have been abusing alcohol or drugs (e)
The high level of psychiatric morbidity in the prison population means that doctors providing health care within
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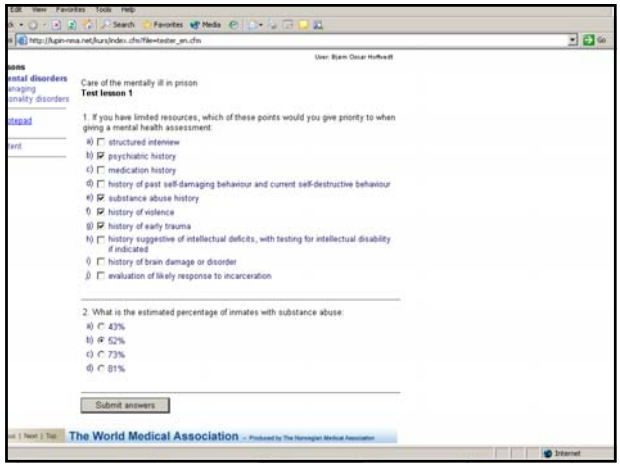
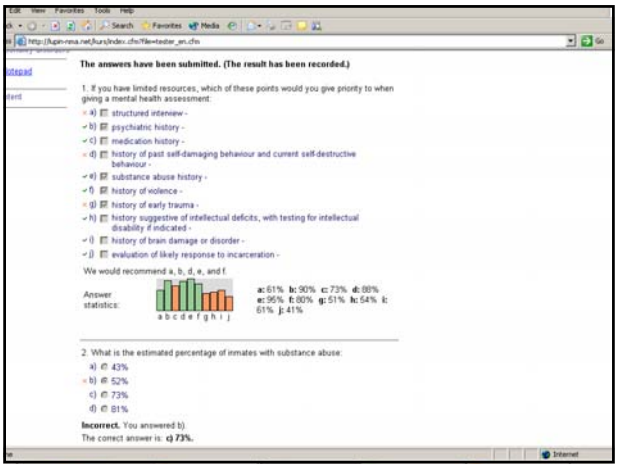
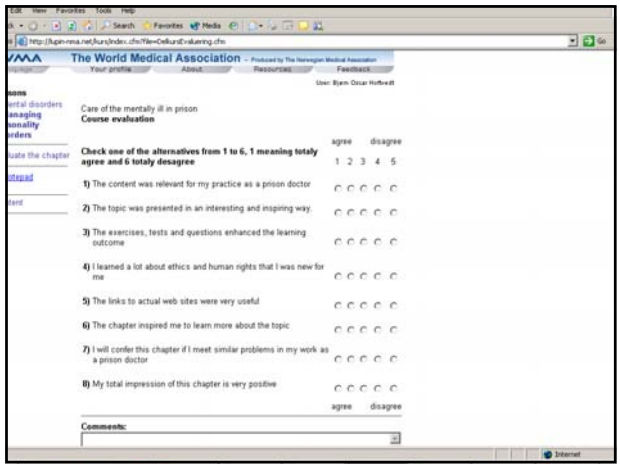
Help
and containment. This is not easy to achieve in prisons, where dual loyalties and responsibilities are dominant. There is no doubt, however, that doctors should consider the care of mentally disordered offenders as their primary function. The goals to reduce symptoms and improve function are not in conflict with prevention of recidivism (social function). Prevention and rehabilitation of mental disorders should not be neglected in prison settings.

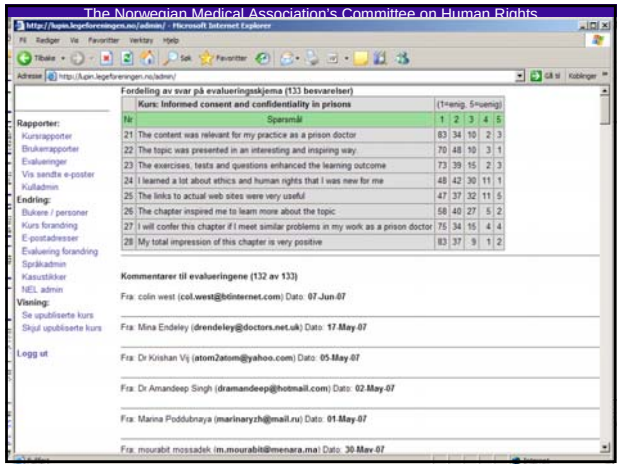

Care of the mentally ill in prison
Test lesson 1
1. If you have limited resources, which of these points would you give priority to when giving a mental health assessment
a) structured interview
b) psychiatric history
c) medication history
d) history of past self-damaging behaviour and current self-destructive behaviour
e) substance abuse history
f) history of violence
g) history of early trauma
h) history suggestive of intellectual deficits, with testing for intellectual disability if indicated
i) history of brain damage or disorder
j) evaluation of likely response to incarceration
2. What is the estimated percentage of inmates with substance abuse:
a) 43%
b) 52%
c) 73%
d) 81%
Submit answers
The World Medical Association





Users

- 132 have completed the course
- Number of visitors higher (no registration)



Comments

- I found this a very useful tool. As a medical professional with Correctional Service of Canada, I will refer my counterparts to this site and course and will use it myself often to deal with issues in my everyday practice.
- A very important, timely and worthwhile course that increased my understanding of sector that I am working with more and more. Thank you. (Uzbekistan)
- This course is really informative and learning. There can be more excercises per chapters. There can also be more examples for illustrations too (India)
- THANK YOU FOR THIS COURSE (Democratic republic of Congo)

http://lupin-nma.net

BBC News