WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

## Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Interactive Pre-clerkship Module: Communication with Underserved Patients who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

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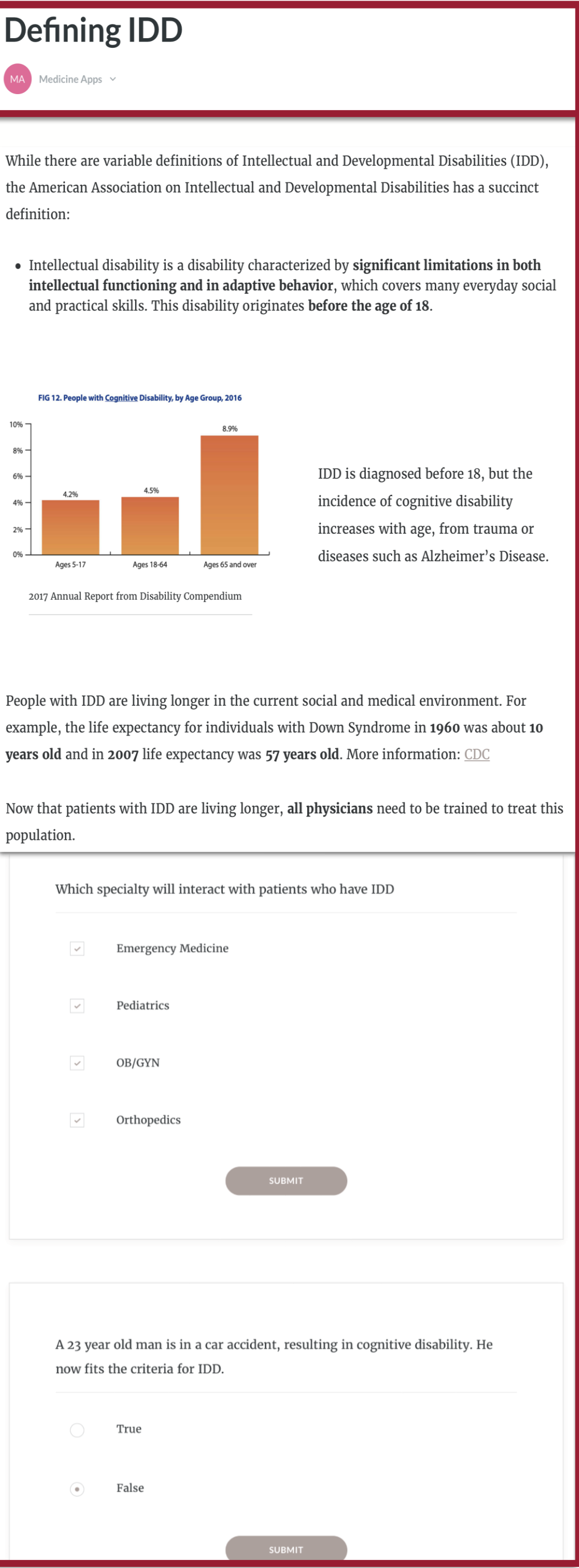
Introduction

As with other underserved populations in medicine, patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can receive a lower standard of care when providers are unsure how to communicate with them and their support person. Our goal is to improve patient interactions across specialties for all ages of patients with IDD. This prompted us to design a module to teach students communication skills early in their medical education.

The interactive component of our module engages students in a topic that can be tough to remember amidst the flood of information in pre-clerkship years. The details and finesse required in the art of medicine can be difficult to teach. Videos and quizzes in a compact format will help students retain information long-term. Students may also access the module as they move through clerkship years and beyond, provided a consolidated resource for learners.
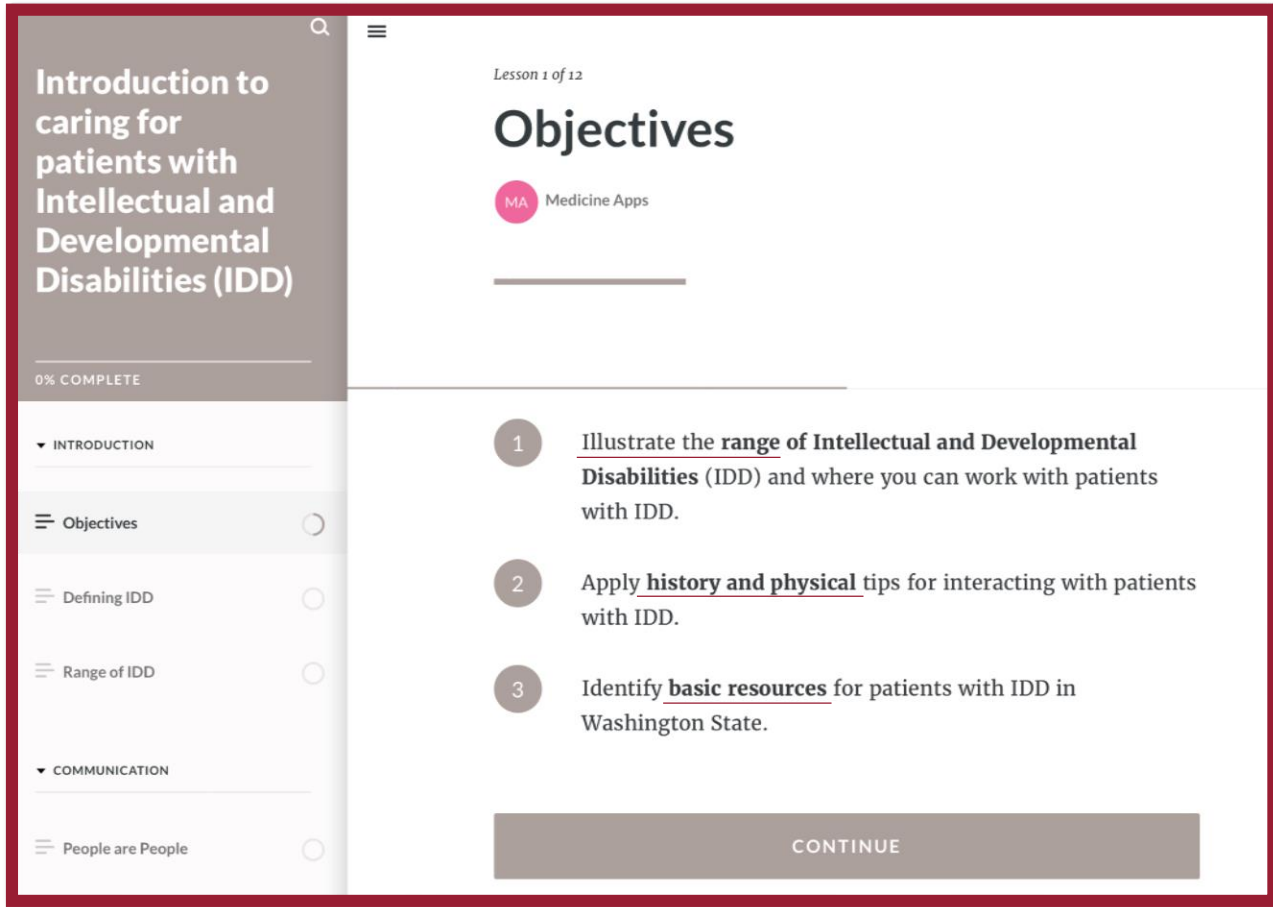
Module Objectives

- Introductory page for students on the RISE platform, with table of contents on left side

- To practice applying history and physical tips students move through additional sections (not shown here) that display videos of positive patient interaction in addition to example cases to work through.

Defining IDD

While there are variable definitions of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has a succinct definition:

- Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by **significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior**, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates **before the age of 18**.

FIG 12. People with Cognitive Disability, by Age Group, 2016

IDD is diagnosed before 18, but the incidence of cognitive disability increases with age, from trauma or diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease.

2017 Annual Report from Disability Compendium

People with IDD are living longer in the current social and medical environment. For example, the life expectancy for individuals with Down Syndrome in **1960** was about **10 years old** and in **2007** life expectancy was **57 years old**. More information: CDC

Now that patients with IDD are living longer, **all physicians** need to be trained to treat this population.

Which specialty will interact with patients who have IDD

- ☑ Emergency Medicine
- ☑ Pediatrics
- ☑ OB/GYN
- ☑ Orthopedics

SUBMIT

A 23 year old man is in a car accident, resulting in cognitive disability. He now fits the criteria for IDD.

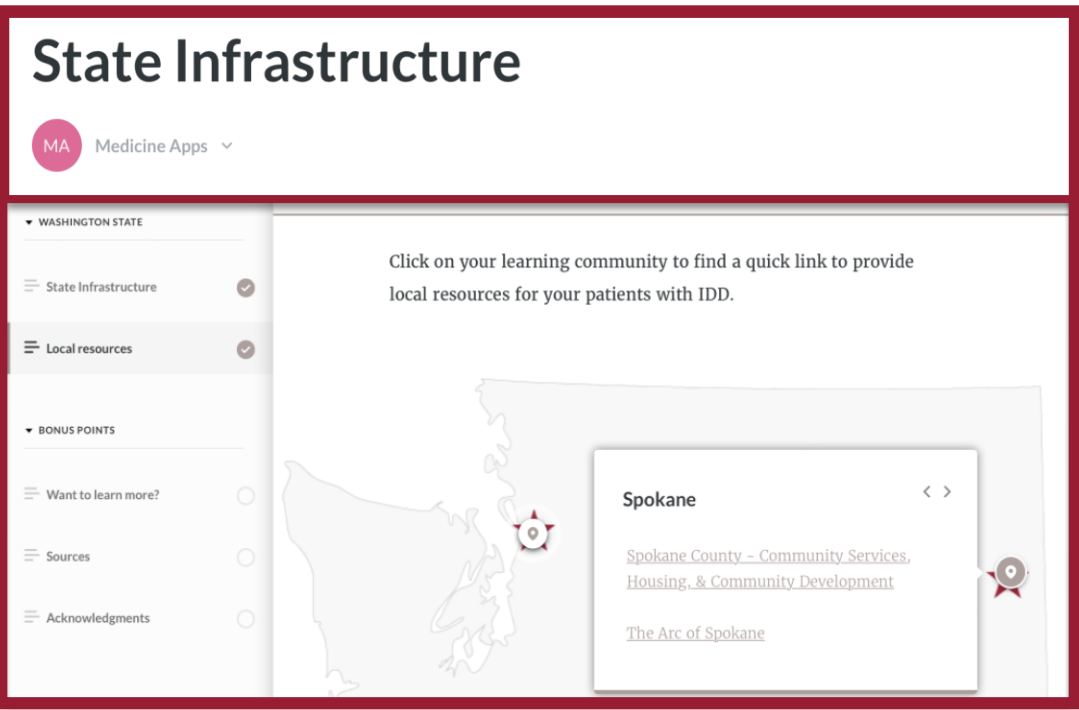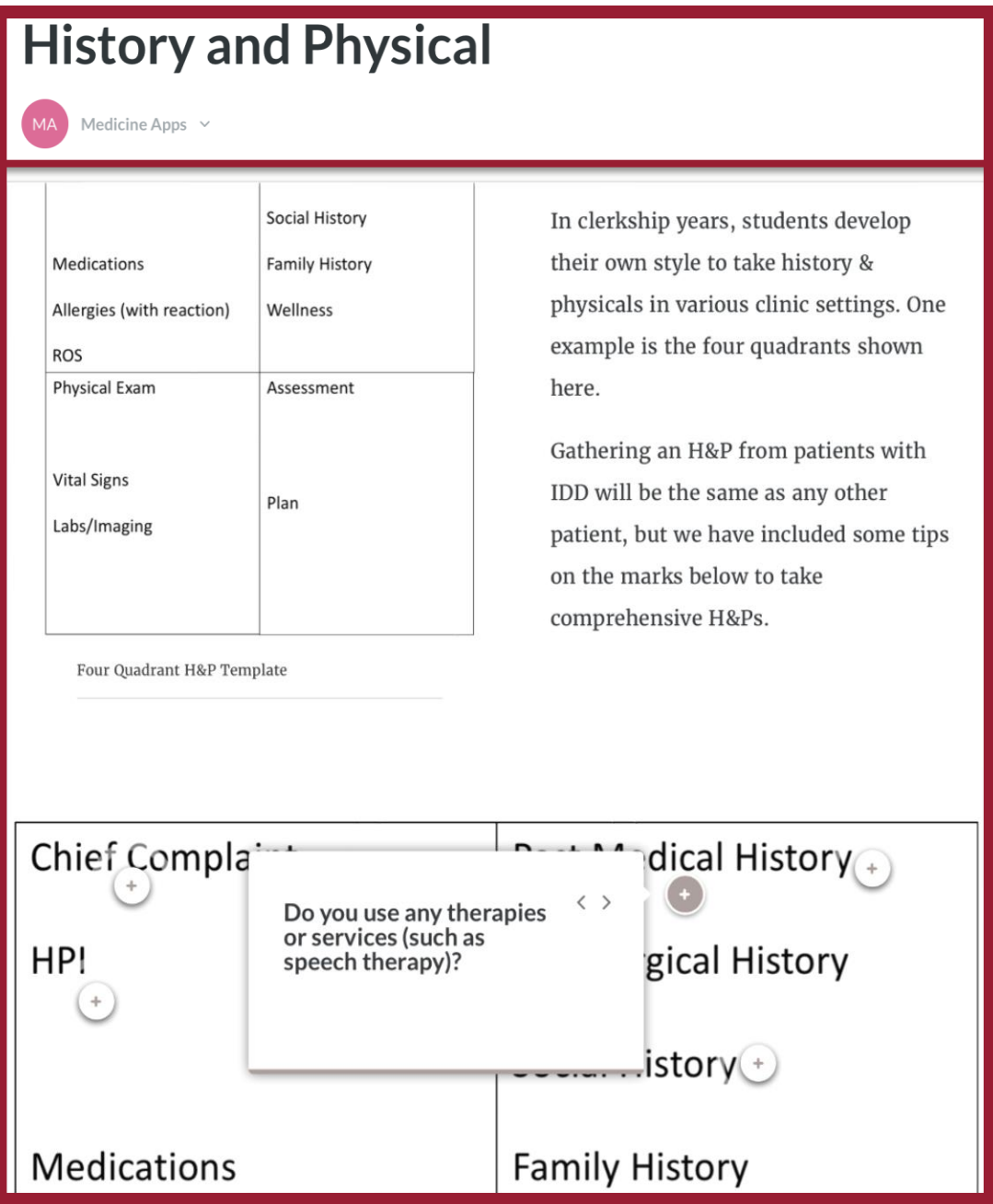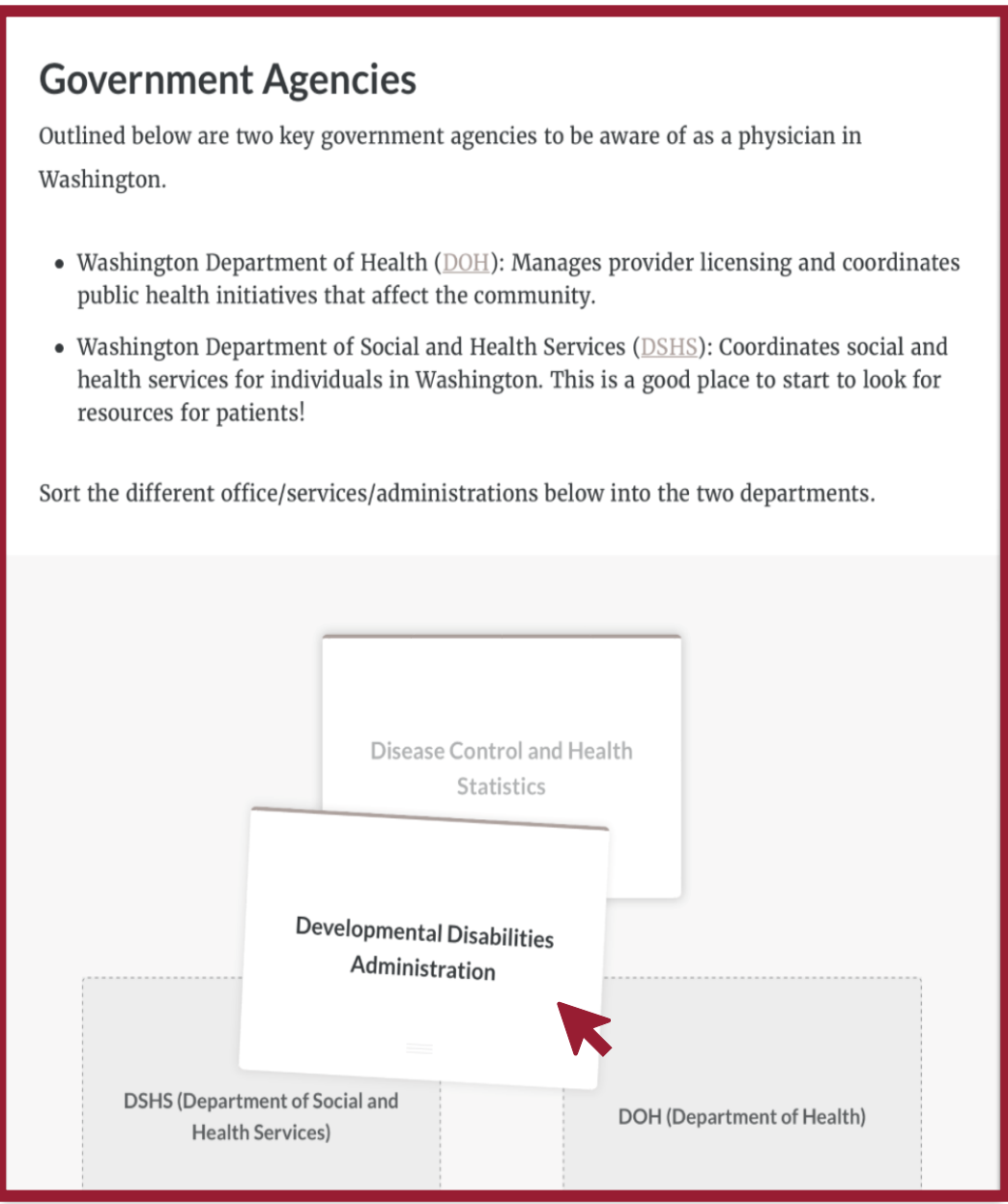- ○ True
- ● False

SUBMIT

IDD Introduction

- Section one convinces students this lesson applies to them, regardless of specialty interest

- Immediate questions after every section keep students engaged and maximize lesson retention

History and Physical (H&P) Tips

- Specific questions strengthen an H&P for patients with IDD

- Introducing one template exposes pre-clerkship students to different note styles

- Using terminology consistent with the IDD community, gives students the language to be confident in new patient interactions

Understanding Washington State

Government Agencies

Outlined below are two key government agencies to be aware of as a physician in Washington.

- Washington Department of Health (DOH): Manages provider licensing and coordinates public health initiatives that affect the community.
- Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS): Coordinates social and health services for individuals in Washington. This is a good place to start to look for resources for patients!

Sort the different office/services/administrations below into the two departments.

History and Physical

	Social History	In clerkship years, students develop their own style to take history & physicals in various clinic settings. One example is the four quadrants shown here.
Medications	Family History	
Allergies (with reaction)	Wellness	
ROS		
Physical Exam	Assessment	Gathering an H&P from patients with IDD will be the same as any other patient, but we have included some tips on the marks below to take comprehensive H&Ps.
Vital Signs		
Labs/Imaging	Plan	

Four Quadrant H&P Template

State Infrastructure

- Expose students to major departments they will work with in the future

- Providing context for pre-clerkship learners while avoiding excessive depth of information

- Establishes a consolidated resource for students to reference in future clinic days, across the Washington State University 4 unique learning communities

Conclusion

Our goal in creating this module is for medical students to effectively communicate with and care for patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In the future, to measure effectiveness, we will survey students on their perceived communication ability before and after taking the module. We also anticipate surveying students, preceptors, patients and families during clerkship years to compare the communication ability of students who utilized the module to those who did not. We hope to improve health equity for underserved populations by creating an approachable module that focuses on communication.

This module was created by students, for students. It stems from a passion to create better outcomes for a population that is often overlooked. There are many patient populations that students are passionate about given their past experiences. We can capitalize on this to curate additional modules that will help provide the tools necessary to care for unique, underserved patient populations across specialties. The modules may be updated by future students as the need arises. Our module, and others like it, have the potential to become a valuable, compact, learner-appropriate resource for clerkship years.

Acknowledgements & Disclosures

References

- Clarissa Kripke, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California. Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Comprehensive Approach to Medical Care. *Am Fam Physician.* 2018 May 15;97(10):649-656.
- Tom Shakespeare, Lisa I Iezzoni, Nora Grace. Disability and the Training of Health Professionals. *The Lancet.* 2009 November 28;374(9704):1815-1816.