

Best Practices



Understanding HESI Case Studies

HESI Case Studies provide application-based questions to introduce students to real-world care scenarios. This helps students learn to manage complex patient conditions and practice clinical decision making. Questions cover nursing care with a wide range of physiological and psychosocial alterations, as well as related management, pharmacology, and nursing concepts.



Key Point: These resources are used across the curriculum and are often mapped to specific courses.

Implementing Case Studies

Strategies for Using Case Studies



In Class

Assign a Case Study prior to class and review the item analysis. During class, review and discuss frequently missed questions including rationales and/or testing strategies utilized. Have students write an SBAR and share with their peer(s) or discuss what would need to be charted and document in an EHR as available. Place a revised question from a case study into an exam.



In Clinical

Case studies can be used as a post-conference activity. They can also be used for virtual patient case scenarios.



As Remediation


Use case studies to work with students to identify areas of weakness (either after their HESI or faculty made exam) and complete related cases.

Additional Strategies for Using Case Studies in Class

Case studies are great to use in class to bring clinical to the classroom.

Students can complete a case study in small groups then discuss as a class. Have each group report to the class what they found to be most interesting or valuable. Consider posting “What If” questions to expand on the case outcome.

Use a Case Study as a post-class assignment - this could be a group project for discussion or individual assignment. Students could also be required to find a research article associated with the case study supporting nursing best practices.

 **You can review synopses of case studies in your Instructor Resources as you prepare to use them with your learners.**

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Additional Thoughts for Optimizing HESI Case Studies in the Program

Clearly discuss with students if the **Case Study** is a shared experience or if it is meant to be completed independently for a grade. This might be a good time to reinforce an academic honesty policy and what work students are expected to do on their own.

Discuss testing techniques and strategies for student success. Use the **Test Taking Skills slides** (found in the HESI Case Studies) in student orientation and during the first few classes.

 **Review Test Taking Strategies**

For first semester students, discuss **Critical Thinking test items** and how they are written at a higher cognitive level. This will help students understand the new level of application and higher-level questions they will have in tests.