

CASE 9

CASE 9 IN DETAIL

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1. Overview: Child abuse is an issue that crosses professional boundaries. In this scenario, a young child is treated by his physician and subsequently referred to a dentist. What occurs between the lines is the meat of the case. What are our responsibilities as health care providers if we suspect child abuse? How does knowledge from professional colleagues enlighten us regarding how to manage suspected child abuse? Whose role is relevant when managing this case? When do we know to turn to other health professionals for guidance? Valuing each professional's contribution is a fundamental outcome of this session.

2. Objectives/Outcomes- Faculty and Student Attendees will:

- a. Describe why a team of health professionals best addresses cases of suspected child abuse.
- b. Identify how professions other than your own assisted with Bobby's case management.
- c. Describe what you learned about another profession today. How will that information be of value to you in another circumstance?

3. Teaching/method Activity

Case based; problem-based with proposed scenario:

Bobby, an 11 year-old boy, enters the pediatrician's office with his parents. Dr. Jones greets Bobby who appears shy and refuses to answer questions. Dad responds to all inquiries. Upon examination, Dr. Jones finds scattered bruises on Bobby's arms. Dad says that Bobby fell down the stairs. The head and neck exam reveals a bruise over the left eye and several broken teeth also on the left side. The physician decides that Bobby needs a dentist and is prepared to dismiss the family.

9. Crossing the Line: Could Improved Interprofessional Communication Address Child Abuse?

Collaboration led by

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Participating faculty

Norman Tinanoff, Dentistry

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Max Enrollment: 35

Location: School of Dentistry, G314