

Title: Ethical Practices and Communicating Effectively: The Subject of Sex (Panel Discussion)

Instructors: Dr. Cindy Howard, Dr. Jay Greenstein, Ms. Kristi Hudson, Dr. Kristina Petrocco-Napuli, Dr. Kristine Tohtz

Total Hours: 2 hours

Topic: Risk Management, Ethics, Professional Boundaries

Description: Topics around sex start from birth through old age and are sometimes difficult and uncomfortable to discuss; this lends itself to accidental error and moral and ethical boundaries being inadvertently crossed. We desire to take the stigma out of the challenge of talking about sex. This lecture is designed to open your mind, help you communicate better, and understand the clinical importance of addressing with your patients the surrounding topics under the vast umbrella of “sex.” Knowing how to broach this subject ethically & appropriately is essential, always. This lecture will talk about orientation, abuse, pleasure, fertility, growth, side effects, as well as sexual practices that are extremely healthy in our relationships and what impact this has on the body. As a general practitioner, these subjects affect your entire patient population, and navigating them correctly can keep you in compliance and help your patients. Allow us to empower you so we as a profession can continue to support, guide, and communicate with our patients about sometimes challenging, complex, and even funny situations.

Course Objectives:

- The doctor will be more comfortable discussing topics in sex without violating boundaries.
- The doctors will be able to understand their role in treating. And know when to properly refer in subject matters outside their expertise.
- The doctor will have a better understanding of correct ethical communication in topics relating to sexual health.

Hour 1:

- Address the discomfort surrounding discussions about sex.
- Discuss the importance of ethically and appropriately broaching the subject of sex in healthcare.
- Recognize the clinical importance of discussing sex with patients.
- Explore various sexual orientations.
- Understand the importance of inclusive language and attitudes.

Hour 2:

- Define sexual boundaries in healthcare.
- Review examples of situations when sexual boundaries have been crossed.
- Strategies for addressing boundary violations sensitively and professionally.

- Define sexual harassment and misconduct in healthcare.
- Review reporting procedures for addressing sexual harassment and misconduct.
- Examine case studies illustrating boundary challenges in healthcare.