A BRIEF GUIDE TO WRITING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

STEP 1. Identify curricular goals:

A. A curricular goal is a general statement of knowledge, skills or attitudes to be exhibited by the learner in the real world at the end of the curriculum.

2. Examples:
   - understand how occupational and environmental factors impact the health of individuals and communities.
   - diagnose and outline initial management for selected common outpatient medical problems.
   - appreciate overall cost issues and means of cost reduction in health care systems.

3. The goal statements are the heart of your curriculum. They communicate the “boundaries.” All subsequent objectives, methods and evaluation procedures are directed toward achieving the goals.

4. Checklist for writing curricular goals:
   1. Describes overall curriculum outcomes.
   2. Realistically attainable during the curriculum and appropriate to the level of the learners.
   3. Stated in terms of learner knowledge, behavior or attitudes.

STEP 2. Identify curricular objectives:

A. Objectives are statements that describe in precise, measurable terms what learners will be able to do at the end of an instructional sequence.

2. Examples:
   At the end of this program, students will be able to:
   - elicit and record a complete and accurate 24-hour diet recall from a patient.
   - perform and accurately document the physical examination of a patient with an injured knee.
   - discuss forces which contribute to increases in health care costs and how we might evaluate/reduce/control them.
   - determine the health risks of a family (including habits such as smoking and alcohol, occupational exposures, water source, economics, and psychosocial stressors).
   - define primary, secondary, and tertiary care.
1. Checklist for objectives:
   _ related to a goal.
   _ stated in terms of learner behavior.
   _ answers the question, “What will learners be able to do at the end of the curriculum, or at the end of instruction?”
   _ stated in precise, observable and measurable terms.
   _ realistically attainable during the period of instruction.

4. Characteristics of good objectives
   _ achievable
   _ measurable
   _ specific (as appropriate for learner and setting)
   _ include knowledge, skills, attitudes
   _ relevant
   _ valid
   _ refers to observable behavior

E. The verb list on the following pages may be helpful

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