Meeting the Needs of Community Health Nurses - Innovative Online STI Education

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The Rationale

- In June 2005 the British Columbia government approved the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation under the Health Professions Act
- Scope of Practice for nursing in BC to be formally described
- STI practice becomes a part of nursing practice not a delegated medical function
- Requires certification for practice outside of regular historical scope of nursing





The Rationale

- Previous face-to-face training
 - Relied on a variety of expert speakers
 - Curriculum not standardized
 - Limited numbers of learners per year due to speakers' availability
 - Cost of seminar rooms, travel and accommodation





The Rationale

- Online course
 - Standardized curriculum
 - Evidence-based
 - Able to reach larger number of learners
 - Less travel costs though preceptorship still requires travel expenses





The Course

- Content management system (CMS)
- Learning content management system (LCMS)
- Proprietary or open source
- Moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment)





The Benefits of Moodle

- Open Source
 - SCORM Compliant
- Self authoring
- Short training for facilitators
 - No need to be that much of a computer whiz
- "High control and low cost"





Orient learners to the online environment

- Learners receive an introductory email
 - Login instructions
 - Screen shots of the course
 - Course schedule and grading
 - Tech requirements
- Separate email with username and password





Orient learners to the online environment

- Learning Online Course
 - Can be used for other course offerings
 - How to create a profile
 - Netiquette
 - How to navigate the course
 - How to use the discussion forums
 - How to take a quiz in Moodle





- STI Certificate 5 modules
 - Fundamentals of STI Practice
 - Etiology and Presentation
 - Counselling and Clinical Approach
 - Interpretation, Diagnosis, Treatment and Education
 - Reporting and Surveillance





- Intro to Preceptorship
 - Step by step guide on how to proceed
 - Outlines roles and responsibilities
 - -Forms used are housed online
 - Housekeeping items
- Clinical Preceptorship





Course Structure - Time Required

- Online course
 - 4 to 6 hours a week
 - 12 weeks duration

- Preceptorship
 - -3 consecutive days





Course Structure - Assessment Tools

- Discussion forums
 - Case-based learning
 - One forum per module
 - 3-4 case studies per forum
- Multiple choice final exam
 - Single answer option format



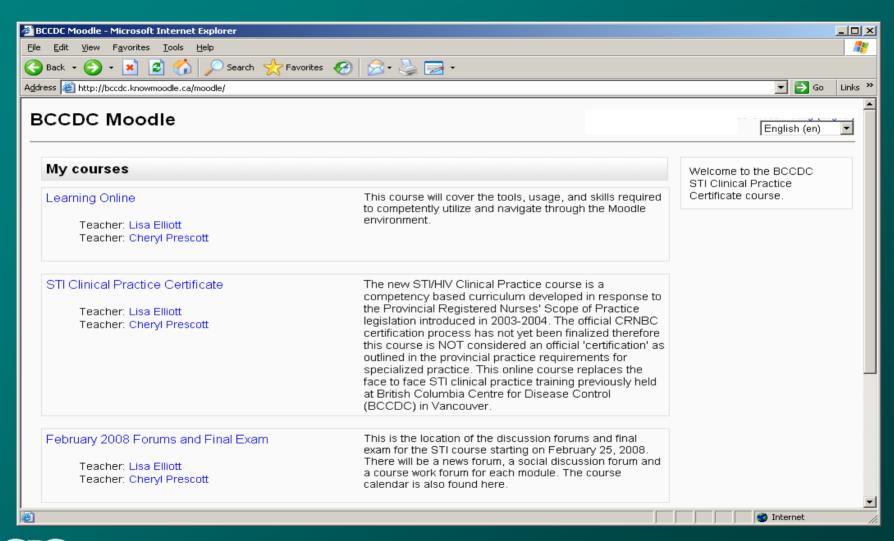


Course Structure - Activities

- All resources online
 - Canadian STI Guidelines in each STI clinical setting
- Partnership with Simon Fraser University's Learning and Instructional Development Centre (LIDC)
 - Videos
 - Audio
 - Flash presentations
 - DVD back-up for videos, audio and flash presentations
 - Games and puzzles
 - Self check questions
 - "Thinking it over" pieces

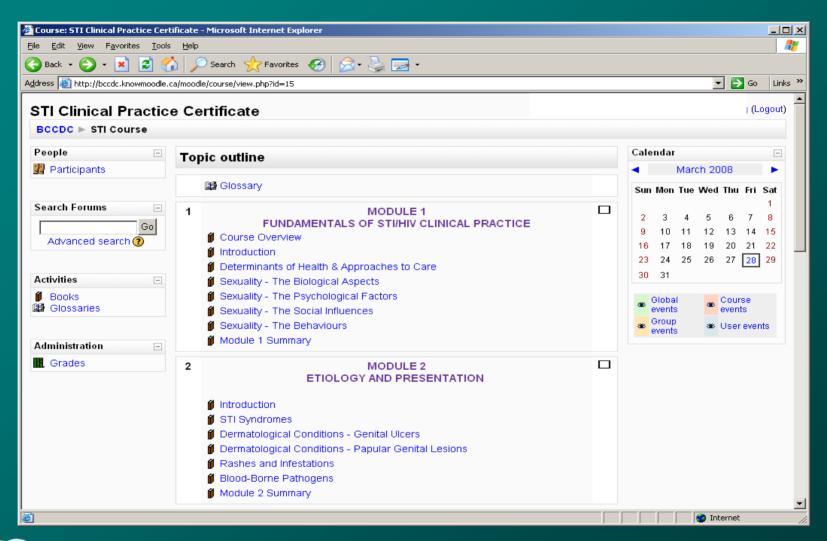






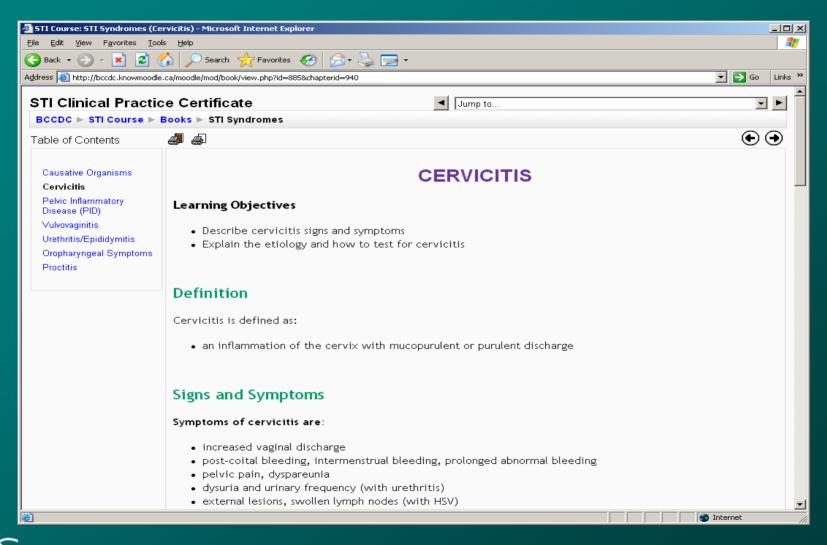






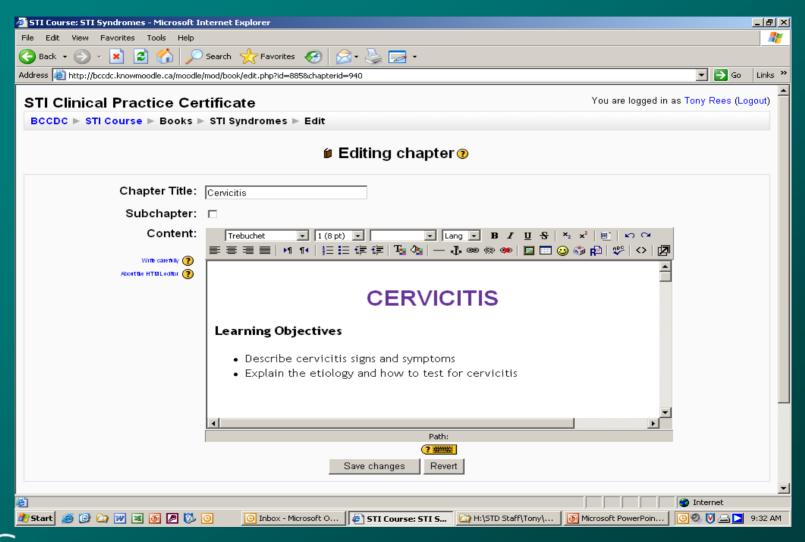














Icons



Puzzles and Games

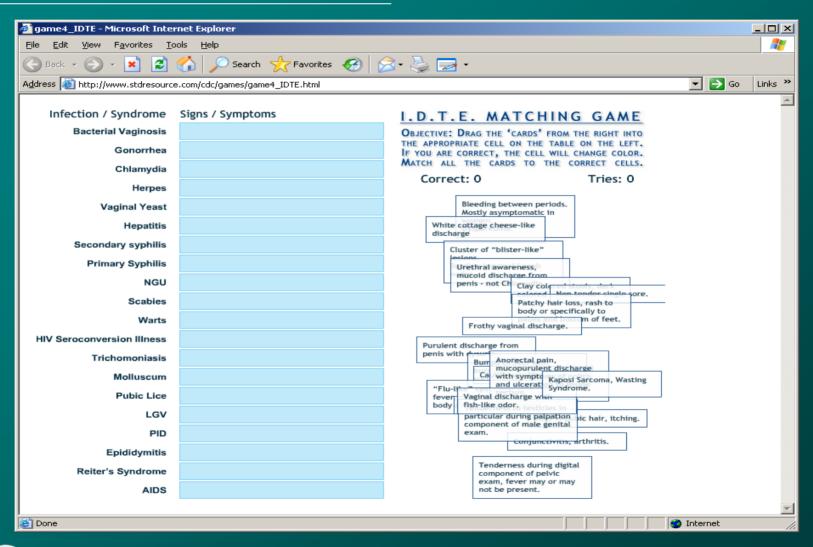


Media

- video
- audio
- flash presentations











Evaluation

- Conducted by Simon Fraser University
 - online surveys
 - before course
 - between course and preceptorship
 - after preceptorship

- Feedback from learners
 - online surveys
 - feedback forms for each module for prototypes





Evaluation Results

- Video and audio segments considered most helpful in learning
- Most people completed the course in the anticipated 4-6 hour time frame
- The diagnosis and treatment module was considered the most useful to their nursing practice





Issues

- Open source vs. proprietary
- Synchronous vs. asynchronous
 - Part-time learners
 - Synchronous requires flexible schedule
- Forums vs. assignments
 - Learner feedback supports forums
 - Last minute postings
 - Time taken in marking





Lessons Learned

- Self authoring
- Manage facilitation hours
- Optimum number of learners per forum
- Technical support
- Orient learners to online environment
- Support for transition to preceptorship
- Support preceptors





The Future

- Currently aimed at BC clinicians
- Increased support for preceptorships
- Regional centres for the preceptorship phase
- Bundle with other courses





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