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SUMMARY (Dr Helen Beaumont)
Patients are turning to complementary medicine to solve their problems more frequently. As a result doctors need to have an understanding of what patients will experience when they visit such a practitioner. GPs often offer these services from their own practices and you may encounter them in your training. It is therefore helpful and indeed important that you acquire some knowledge of these therapies and this course is designed to enable you to fulfil this brief through a study of homeopathy. I have found homeopathy to be an outstanding therapeutic tool which has transformed my clinical practice and allowed me to understand patients’ problems not only from a deeper level but also from a new perspective.

CONTENT
In this module you will study the types of patients and doctors who use complementary therapies, their health beliefs and behaviours and the conditions for which treatment is sought. Homeopathy is a system of therapeutics which treats ‘like with like’ according to the law of similars. Homoeopathy is available on the N.H.S. and is one of the most popular complementary medicines used by the general population and endorsed by primary care practitioners. It has been shown to be an ideal first line treatment for many of the acute and chronic conditions seen in primary care and has a wide safety margin even in pregnancy. You will study the evidence base for homoeopathy and there will be extensive use of videos, case histories and role play to illustrate the practice of the homeopathic method. During the course there will be an opportunity to take part in a dream proving of a homeopathic remedy leading to greater insight of the mechanism of homeopathy.

OUTCOME
By the end of the SSM you will be able to:-
• Describe the basic principles of homeopathy and the difference between conventional and homeopathic approach
• Evaluate the evidence relating to homeopathy.
• Use the homeopathic method to take a thorough case history to take into account patients’ individualities in their response to illness
• Know how to use this information to find the correct medicine.
• Have an understanding of the application of homeopathy in first aid situations and acute prescribing
• Sit the Faculty of Homeopathy’s PHCE examination leading to LFHom qualification (www.trusthomeopathy.org)
EXAMPLES OF AREAS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- In-vitro evidence for homeopathy: the memory of water.
- Evaluation of clinical trials of homeopathy.
- Can homeopathy treat psoriasis?

Assessment

Assessment inline will involve a presentation and an essay.

You are also eligible to sit the Faculty of Homeopathy examination. The PHCE exam will give you the LFHom qualification after qualifying. This offers you the opportunity to gain a postgraduate examination and qualification at the earliest opportunity. The exam is a 100 multiple choice questions and students who revise for the exam on the whole do well but it is not possible to pass without studying so a commitment is needed.