

**Genetic Nurse and Counsellor Professional Branch Board**

**Form G. Additional case study information**

# Case study instructions (please read and follow):

Applicants must write two case studies as an in-depth study exercise. Choose your cases well. Good cases are ones that have challenged you, taught you something new, interesting or theoretically relevant.

* A title needs to be included at the beginning of each case study
* **Add an Abstract section at the start** (this will not counted in you total word count) with a summary of the case (approx. 300 words) specifying: the background, the main ethical/counselling issue discussed, the general approach taken and the conclusion.
* The word count for each case study is 2000-2500 words. Applicants should put the word count on the front page of the case study.
* The case studies can be written in the applicant´s own language and translated into English to a professional standard. In this circumstance the applicant must submit copies in both languages.
* Please provide appropriate referencing to evidence/theory supporting your practice. You must reference all significant statements with current and appropriate references and provide a reference list at the end of the case study. As a general guide, you are expected to use at least ten references from current literature in each case study. The use of secondary references should be limited, therefore care needs to be taken when referencing textbooks or websites. You must use the Harvard system of referencing, providing author names and year of publication in the text.

The title and reference list are not included in the word count.

* The applicant may include a family tree if desired, but this is not necessary. It will not be included in the word count.
* The applicant must include a clear statement at the beginning of each case study that pseudonyms have been used to protect the patient’s confidentiality.
* Write your full name on the top of each page.

**CASE STUDY 1** should focus on a **psychosocial** family issue and the way in which you addressed this.

A good psychosocial case study should include:

* A brief introduction to the clinical setting (without name of the institution)
* A description of the case (with pseudonyms to protect confidentiality of all individuals) and background to the case history
* Contact summary: outline your role with the patient/family and their contact with the service
* Goals: of the patient(s), of the counsellor/yours
* **Clearly state the identified psychosocial issue, explaining why you chose this case**
* A description of counselling skills you used, or could have used.
* Reflection on issues in the context of your own management of this case
* How you applied counselling theory and counselling skills to help solve the psychosocial issue raised by the case, the reasoning for their use, the patient’s responses to them and outcome of the approach Alternately, how, in retrospect, these *could* have been used (this would represent learning for future practice, see last bullet point below). Try to include citations to, and critical appraisal of relevant published research evidence to support your approach.
* Outcome and reflection of impact on future practice (consider using a structured model of reflection e.g. John’s Model of Structured Reflection). Remember to reflect on precisely what you will do differently in the future as a result of what you learned from this case. Try to extract general lessons for genetic counselling practice, rather than lessons that are specific to this case. What have you learned from this case about what to do the same or differently in your future practice to achieve better outcomes for your patients?

**CASE STUDY 2** should focus on an **ethical** issue, and should demonstrate your awareness of the ethical issues surrounding genetic counselling, and the ethical principles that underpin practice. The case should include the way in which you dealt with the ethical issue, or could have dealt with it.

A good ethical case study should include:

* A brief introduction to the clinical setting (without name the institution)
* A description of the case (with pseudonyms to protect confidentiality of all individuals) and background to the case history
* Contact summary: outline your role with the patient/family and their contact with the service
* Goals: of the patient(s), the counsellor/yours
* **Clearly state the identified ethical issue, explaining why you chose this case**
* Discussion of the issues in the context of your own management of this case (how you applied, or *could have* applied ethical theory (e.g. the four principles of medical ethics) to help resolve the ethical issue(s) raised by the case)
* Try to include citations to, and critical appraisal of relevant published research evidence to support your approach and make sure to cite appropriate references to ethical theory.
* Outcome and reflection of impact on future practice (consider using a structured model of reflection e.g. John’s Model of Structured Reflection). Remember to reflect on precisely what you will do differently in the future as a result of what you learned from this case. Try to extract general lessons for genetic counselling practice, rather than lessons that are specific to this case. What have you learned from this case about what to do the same or differently in your future practice to achieve better outcomes for your patients?

To support you to meet the standard required, the assessment of the case study is mainly based on the following questions:

1. Is the setting for the case described?
2. Is the case described sufficiently?
3. Is the patient’s confidentiality assured, e.g. by use of pseudonyms?
4. Are the ethical, psychosocial and counselling aspects of the case discussed appropriately?
5. Does the applicant’s response to the ethical/psychosocial/counselling issue appear appropriate?
6. Are any relevant ethical aspects of the case discussed appropriately?
7. Does the applicant show an ability to reflect on his or her own practice?
8. Are key statements of fact referenced appropriately?
9. Is the work within the required word count?

# Plagiarism

When writing case studies, essay or letter for submission, it is very important that you do not commit plagiarism. This is a type of academic dishonesty and a breach of ethical practice. The EBMG takes this very seriously and if you have committed plagiarism applicant may be refused registration, or registration may be deferred.

An applicant may be committing plagiarism if:

* They copy text from any other source and does not make it clear it is a quotation
* Include information in the text in his/her own words that he/she does not reference.

As a general rule, applicant can avoid plagiarism by using his/her own words to explain concepts and by adding references to all key statements in the text. For registration level work, we would not expect applicant to use direct quotes, but if he/she does then the quotation should be in inverted commas and he/she must reference the source with author(s), year and page number of the quote after it in the text.

There is more information about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it at: <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/overview/>