

September 10, 2015

Introduction to Clinical Case Study

Patricia Stahura, RN, MSN



ECRIInstitute
The Discipline of Science. The Integrity of Independence.

©2015 ECRI INSTITUTE

Case Study



ECRIInstitute
The Discipline of Science. The Integrity of Independence.

2

©2015 ECRI INSTITUTE

Patient Case Study

Dr. Smith sees Ms. Key for physical exams and for acute care

Ms. Key is a 46-year-old female and English is her second language

Ms. Key has high blood pressure (hypertension), moderate obesity (BMI > 25), is a smoker, and has a family history of melanoma (skin cancer), lung cancer, and diabetes

ECRIInstitute
The Discipline of Science. The Integrity of Independence.

3

©2015 ECRI INSTITUTE

Case Study Continued

Ms. Key had not attended smoking cessation classes and had not been to see her dermatologist

The PA gave Ms. Key a referral to the dermatologist and encouraged smoking cessation

In the past, Ms. Key has seen a dermatologist due to her family history of melanoma; Dr. Smith orders a mammogram

The physician assistant saw Ms. Key for an upper respiratory infection. He notes that Ms. Key was never called about her mammogram results

ECRIInstitute
The Discipline of Science. The Integrity of Independence.

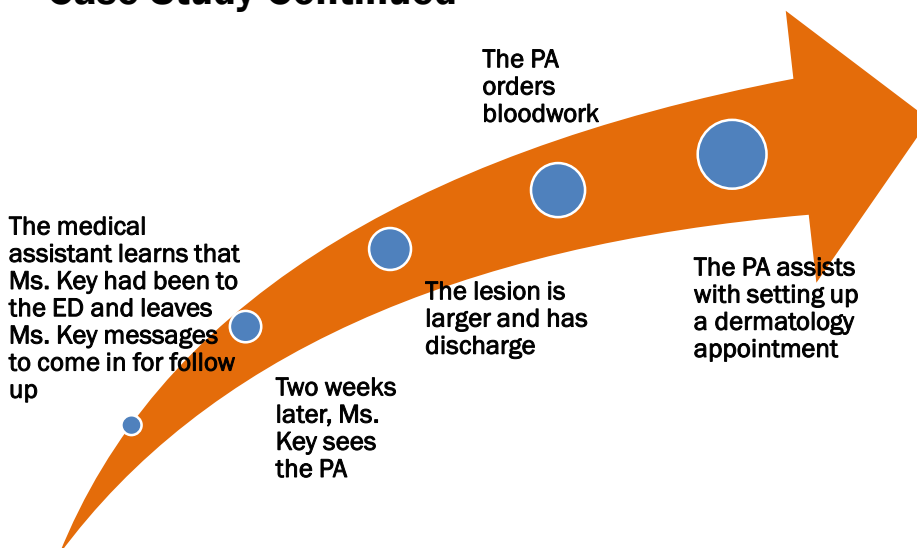
4

©2015 ECRI INSTITUTE

Case Study Continued

- ▶ Ms. Key next presented to the health center with some pain in her upper left arm
- ▶ Dr. Smith noted a quarter-sized darkened lesion with a regular border
- ▶ Ms. Key had not seen the dermatologist in more than 5 years
- ▶ Dr. Smith became agitated with Ms. Key's non-compliance
- ▶ Dr. Smith gave Ms. Key a referral to the dermatologist and recommended a mild analgesic

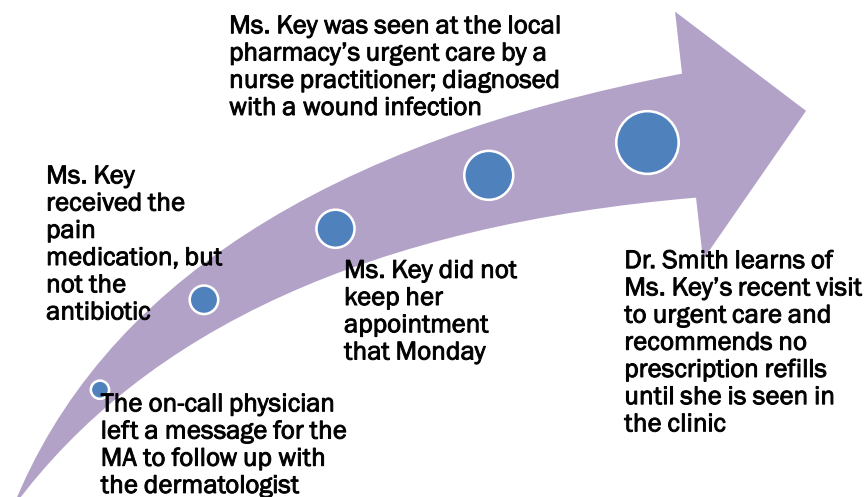
Case Study Continued



Case Study Continued

- ▶ On the following Thursday evening, Ms. Key contacted the urgent message after-hours line and requested pain medication
- ▶ Dr. Caine, the physician on call, questioned Ms. Key about her request
- ▶ Ms. Key reports intense pain and a yellow stain on the bandage
- ▶ Ms. Key could not reach the dermatologist
- ▶ Dr. Caine:
 - Provided a 3-day supply of pain medication
 - Refilled her antibiotic
 - Requested Ms. Key come in to the office on Monday

Case Study Continued



Case Study Continued

- ▶ The pathology report identified a stage 2 melanoma and recommended a lymph node biopsy to determine if the cancer had spread
- ▶ Dr. Derm's notes revealed that Ms. Key had not kept her postoperative appointments
- ▶ Dr. Smith again requested to see Ms. Key, but she did not keep her appointment

Case Study Continued

