



e-SRH – A Win, Win, Win!

Describing a newly launched e-learning package as part of a postgraduate medical training programme in sexual health and its potential as a resource for multi professional training here and overseas.



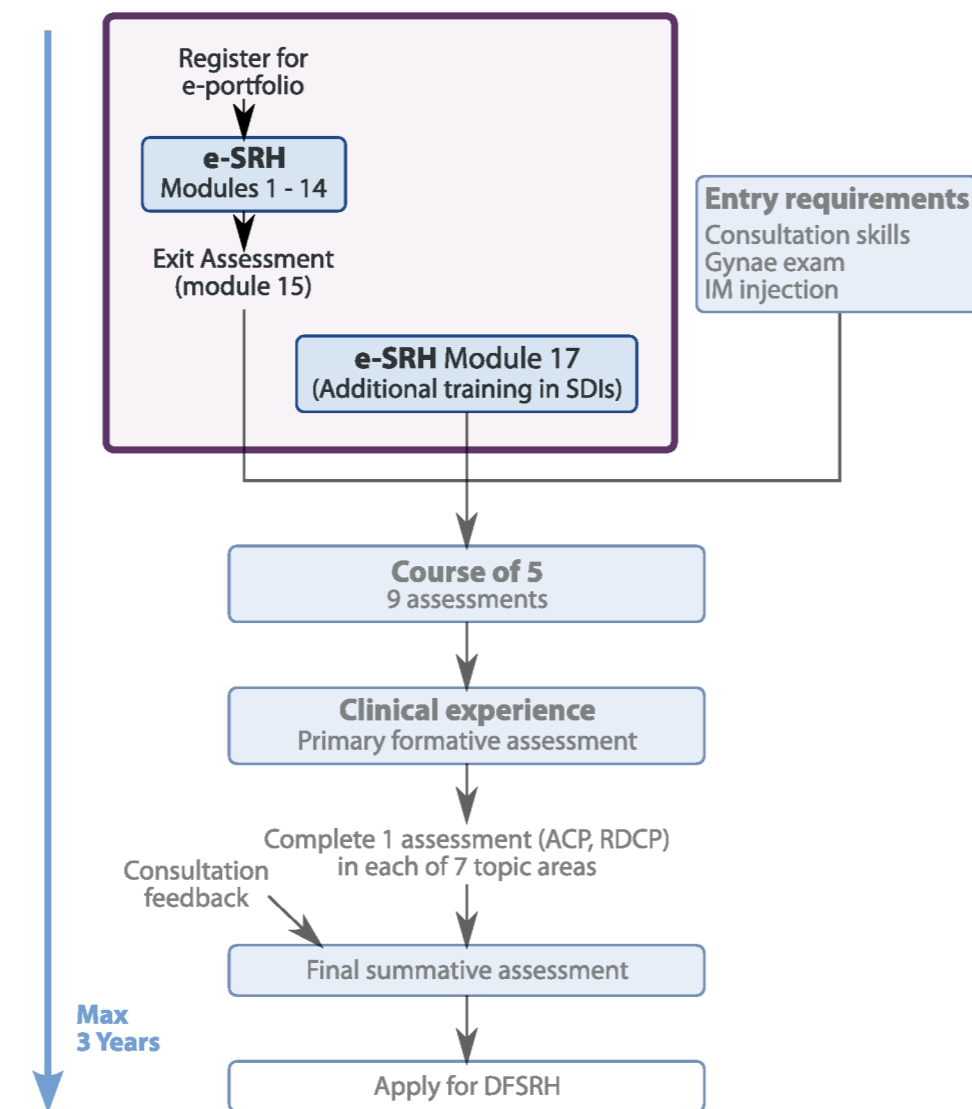
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What is it?

e-SRH (e-learning in Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare) is an interactive e-learning resource which forms the theoretical component of a blended learning package leading to the DFSRH (Diploma of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare). This is the gold standard training qualification for doctors working in general practice and community sexual health clinics.

Who Wrote It?

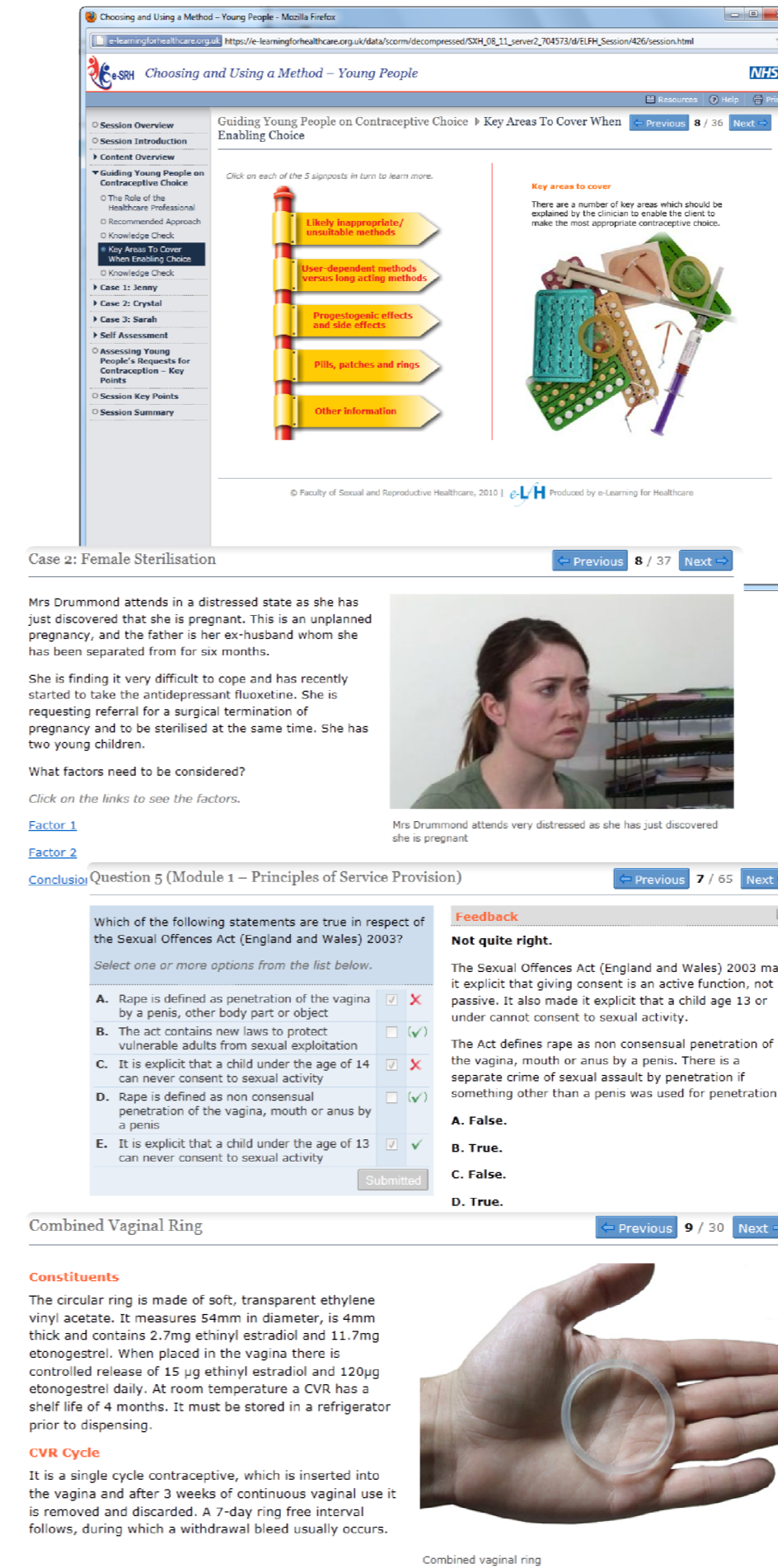
- Over 50 clinicians active in frontline SRH – from general practice, genitourinary medicine and community contraception clinics.
- Multidisciplinary input – as authors and module editors.
- Collaborative – BASHH (British Association for Sexual Health and HIV) developed some of the STI modules.
- Peer reviewed.
- High level of input from patient representatives during the development and review stages.



Why?

The previous DFSRH training included a 3-4 day theory course. This was not standardised and of varying content and quality. It required a significant time commitment from delegates and travel and accommodation costs. Lecturers were taken away from their clinical responsibilities to run the courses. There was poor structural alignment with the clinical component and assessments. This has all been addressed by the new training programme.

What Does The e-SRH Look Like?



- Text, animations, video and clinical scenarios aid learning and retention of knowledge
- Interactive – drag and drop, matching, labelling; requires learners to engage with the material
- Self assessment integral to each session, based on the learning objectives. Evaluation and feedback give evidence of progress
- Exit assessment to ensure good theoretical knowledge before clinical experience

Win

So much **better** than a theory course

- Supports self directed learning
- Access at any time (important for shift workers)
- Access anywhere with internet connection – home, work
- Free registration
- Can take as much time as the individual requires
- Modular and can be worked through in any order
- Permanent resource for reference during rest of training programme and beyond
- Standardised knowledge – informed by current UK guidance (FSRH, NICE, BASHH, UKMEC)
- Updated as guidelines/new methods are developed and entire content under rolling review, taking user feedback into account
- Ongoing internal and external evaluation to maintain clinical and educational rigour
- Does not take clinicians away from patients in order to teach

Win

So much **more** than a one-off theory course

Designed for multidisciplinary training – doctors, nurses, pharmacists and youth workers who work in sexual health. (One of the 5 module editors is a nurse, as were several session authors).

- Theory component of DFSRH for doctors
- The e-SRH has been incorporated into university postgraduate nurse training programmes
- It can be used in the training of pharmacists who have an increasing role in sexual health provision.

Recertification of qualifications – e-SRH is an essential component of the 5 year recertification cycle for Faculty qualifications, replacing previous requirements to attend courses.

Additional modules relate to further Faculty training programmes – Letters of Competence in Sub Dermal Implants and Intrauterine Techniques will help to increase patient access to LARC (long acting reversible contraception), part of a government initiative to reduce unwanted pregnancies.

Source of certifiable CPD: will become more relevant for doctors when revalidation becomes mandatory.

Accessible without taking the DFSRH, ensuring all practitioners are familiar with and able to adhere to current guidelines, legislation and standards of care.

Win

Some things in this world **are** free!

e-SRH was developed as a joint venture with e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH), who provided the technological support for design and development. e-LfH is a Department of Health funded programme working in partnership with the NHS and professional bodies providing high quality content free of charge for the training of the NHS workforce across the UK.

...so access is free to all nhs employees and the Faculty did not have to pay for its development!

Relevant organisations or individual clinicians may also be able to arrange access at a relatively small charge.

Looking Further

There are opportunities to develop this educational tool for global public good.

Interest has been shown by countries in Europe and beyond where formal sexual health training is less well established.

Content may be transferable for training in resource poor countries where the transformative possibilities are huge, expanding access to formal education and increasing the flow of information and knowledge. A major NGO has already shown interest in the e-SRH as part of the global response to the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies. This has a potential knock on effect on child and maternal mortality.

There is a movement towards open access to medical education resources through sharing of materials –this brings the challenge of adapting to diverse contexts, and issues of intellectual copyrights and financial sustainability which will have to be addressed.

...and a 4th Win

e-SRH won first prize in the e-Government 2010 awards, (the UK's most closely watched public sector technology awards event), in the category Excellence in Learning and Skills.



The judges said "e-SRH has revolutionised training in sexual and reproductive health. This nationally validated course for healthcare practitioners has raised standards, widened access and enabled abolition of the face-to-face course. This improved training is saving the NHS £7.9m a year".

Addressing the awards ceremony, the Prime Minister said "You have put Britain at the forefront of e-government delivery in the world. We have the technology and skills, we have the innovation and crucially we have the people."



Want to know more?
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