

## **The Benefits of the IIP Exercise for CPE Students**

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The Ideal Intervention Paper (IIP) is being found to be a valuable CPE teaching/learning tool by helping the student consolidate learnings gained from verbatims presented in the traditional peer group setting.

### Specific benefits reported by CPE supervisors who have used the IIP in their programs:

“Immediate good effects:

1. It helps student to understand that the verbatim is not a beauty contest but a learning device.
2. It helps students realize that they are constantly learning from their pastoral work.
3. For people meeting committees it is a good way to present your clinical work.”

“The positive feedback is that the process was very helpful to (the student) in realizing that he was not taking notes at his verbatim presentations and therefore couldn't remember what he had learned. He carefully considered each section of the verbatim and reviewed how he had used it. This was a helpful process for the whole group.”

### Benefits reported by CPE students:

“Anticipating an IIP makes me pick verbatim visits differently. It affects our conversation around the verbatim. It has brought a bit of professionalism into the conversation. The first 3 units we focused much on ourselves as providers (as we should in CPE); this IIP helps us to focus on perfecting our practice.

“The IIP is a great attempt to inject more professionalism into the chaplaincy. I enjoy the process the IIP offers as it involves initial intervention, reflection, and integration.

“The IIP brings CPE to fulfillment, integrating experience and learning to produce a more effective pastoral presence. An analytical process becomes a professional process. The IIP epitomizes the action-reflection-renewed action CPE principle. The IIP offers objective evidence of the value of chaplaincy, easily shared with administrations that need to validate the salaries of chaplains.

“I appreciated reflecting on the visit with the group but then using it for further growth. I appreciated the objective approach toward improving effectiveness. I appreciated the best practice approach in seeking to set a standard and develop measured outcomes in the integration of pastoral care with the other disciplines. The IIP puts in a positive perspective the focus on areas for further growth. The IIP prevents one from operating in an individualistic approach via standards and goals.”

*The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Board in July 2007 sponsored the research project as a start for a wider research project to place IIPs in an interactive database: IIPs can be understood as a preliminary step toward the development of evidence-based spiritual care practices.*