Title: A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT OF E-MODULES

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Aims. To present the methodological framework for the development of educational e-content, including the conversion of conventional text into e-text, suitable for dental e-learning.

Materials and Methods. The content of the e-module "Sterilization and cross-infection control in the dental practice" was developed by an expert on the subject and was peer-reviewed by a team of academics and professionals. By following the principles for developing educational material for adult e-learning, the conventional written text was adapted to the electronic environment.

Results. Two important parameters were identified while creating the electronic material: a) the methodology for the development of the material and b) the design of the material. Both parameters depend upon the learning objectives of the course: the formulation of learning objectives is the first step towards the creation of electronic educational material.

Into the methodology are included the structural elements of a comprehensive educational material: the main text (the core part of the material), the co-text (aims and outcomes, key-words, tests and activities), the meta-text (conclusions, summaries, references), the hyper-text (link-texts, glossaries, definitions), the retro-text (text in windows, guides) and the para-text (images, symbols, graphics). The design of the material includes the choice of fonts, colors, spacing, extent of the chapters and sub-chapters. Elements such as the length of the text, the combination of text and images/video, the time of a text on the computer screen and the need for scrolling should be taken into account. The conversion of the linear, conventional text into electronic content resulted in a multimodal non-linear material, which enables the content-learner interaction and the efficient distance learning.

Conclusions. The conversion of conventional educational text into electronic material requires a) the formulation of learning objectives, b) the relevant methodological framework and c) the suitable e-text design for achieving the learning objectives. (Project supported by the Erasmus-LLP project, DentCPD, ref: 509961-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-ERASMUS-EMHE).