**A Preceptor is the Bridge: Using the Clinical Judgment Model**

**Case Study: Preceptor Development Module 2**

This case scenario is best utilized after watching the didactic Preceptor Development Module Part 2 on YouTube (link below) and reading the associated articles for the module. The professional development specialist can discuss this case study with the new preceptor.

**Non-Nursing Case**

A veteran teacher who had been in uncomfortable situations many times in her career and who had on many occasions been forced to read the minds of students in moments of stress. The teacher’s account is a beautiful example of how a high-stress moment - in the right hands - can be utterly transformed.

**Scenario**

It was a Monday morning. She was teaching a group of three 15-year-old special needs teens. One cooperated with the reading exercise, the second put his head down and snoozed, and the third talked incessantly. The exercise took 45 minutes and the sleeper never woke despite the teacher occasionally touching his shoulder and nudging him. The talker and the reader completed the case study and did well.

The teacher waited until the other students left and woke the sleeping student. He was grumpy and said the exercise was stupid and he didn’t want to participate. The student was a large boy, about 180 pounds and stood 5 feet 11 inches. The teacher calmly responded that she wouldn’t accept that. The teacher then asked where the student slept last night and what the student had for breakfast. She got no response. Suddenly the student lifted his pencil and threw it to the front of the room and then yelled: “I hate school”. Instead of giving up, the teacher pulled out a yogurt from her refrigerator and gave it to the boy. He ate it very quickly, so she gave him another. Before the teacher knew it, the boy was crying and shared that his parents were unemployed, and he was homeless. Last night there was thunder and lightning and he got no sleep.

Being an experienced teacher had a lot to do with her decision not to give up on him and give him a zero. The bottom line was that she was looking at him, noticed that he was unkept, noticed that he was exhausted and interpreted that this was not laziness or obstinate behavior.

This is an example of judgment born from experience. To a novice, that incident would have gone by as a difficult teenager. But it wasn't! Every situation is composed of a series of discrete moving parts, and every one of those parts offers an opportunity for interpretation in a different way leading to a totally different intervention.

**Questions to discuss:**

1. So how does this case relate to the Clinical Judgment and the Ladder of Inference models?
2. How could you use this case study or the models in your preceptor role?

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ypPfD2DtvA&t=1s>