

BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning at the University of Georgia

BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning are freely available to healthcare professionals and medical students in Georgia until August 2025. Access to these BMJ resources is being provided by the Government of Georgia with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank. Students and professors at the University of Georgia have been using BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning to support their academic work. These BMJ resources are evidence-based and easily accessible online, making them a valuable resource for busy professors and students both inside and outside the classroom.

Dr Natia Landia (Head of the Medicine Programme), Dr Marine Jimukhadze (Clinical Skills Lead), Dr Nato Shengelia (Communication Skills and Family Medicine Lead), Dr. Lela Shengelia (Associate Professor of Public Health Epidemiology and Health Economics) and Bhavya Puthiyadathil (Sixth semester medical student) explained the different ways they use BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning.

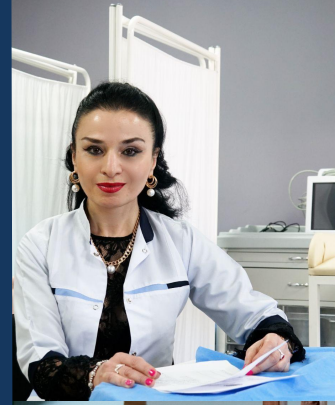
Supporting Students and Lecturers

BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning are being used by professors at the University of Georgia to develop their curriculums and to prepare for lectures. As Head of the Medicine Programme, Dr. Natia Landia, has noticed widespread use of the resources throughout her team. She explained that professors use BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning to support their teaching because *"... [BMJ resources] help us to support their [students'] learning and increase their knowledge and develop more skills based training and to just support them with remembering everything"*.

The BMJ resources were used by all four professors both inside and outside the classroom, and they encouraged their students to do the same. The resources are considered beneficial for improving student learning and as something that will continue to be useful to them after graduation. Dr. Lela Sengelia, for instance, stated, *"We encourage students to use BMJ and explain to them why it is important and what kind of benefits they will get not only now but also in their future work."*

Dr. Marine Jimukhadze explained that she uses BMJ resources to prepare for lectures, stay current on new developments, and show clinical procedure videos during class. Similarly, Bhavya Puthiyadathil, who first accessed BMJ resources to earn extra credit in one of her classes, found herself referring to BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning to support her all of studies:

"I used BMJ as my primary source for every subject, it has valid information and is very much up to date... So I can have an idea about what the disease is and how it works and about the treatment and everything, I used BMJ as the source."



Teaching the importance of Evidence Based Resources

Access to high-quality academic journals is limited, so Dr. Lela Shengelia encourages her students to utilize BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning to learn how to find, use, and produce good research, an essential skill in public health. This sentiment was echoed by Dr Natia Landia who emphasised that without evidence based resources you can't develop good research or clinical skills, which was why she felt it was important that students and professors have access to BMJ's evidence based resources.

Both Dr. Marine Jimukhadze and Dr. Nato Shengelia explained how since these resources are evidence based they don't only use them to support their academic work. Dr. Marine Jimukhadze uses BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning in her clinical practice, stating *"It is extremely useful and the best support for me, ensuring confidence in my work with students"*. While Dr. Nato Shengelia used them to help develop national guidelines on mental health in primary care.

Use as a CPD Resource

Dr. Natia Landia noted the importance of continuing professional development (CPD) stating that *"all professional development activity increases our teachers' ability to receive new information, without this we can't achieve our goals..."* This was something that the other professors agreed with as they spoke about their experience using BMJ Best Practice and BMJ Learning as a CPD resource.

Dr. Marine Jimukhadze, as a family doctor and lecturer, has been using BMJ resources since they first became available in Georgia in 2017, and has found that they have improved her knowledge and skills. This is something that Dr. Nato Shengelia has also seen in her role as Head of the Quality and Education Department of the Georgian Family Medicine Association, stating *"The doctors in the national family medicine training centre are using the BMJ resources on an everyday basis"*.

Examples of using BMJ resources in undergraduate medical education

Subject	Resource	Purpose/ description of activity
Clinical Skills 1: Communication (2nd semester)	Infection control - including basic personal protective equipment	Learn how to don and doff basic personal protective equipment as well as the principles of other infection control measures in a hospital environment.
	Basic life support outside of hospital	A step by step guide on basic life support for medical personnel out of hospital.
	Motivational interviewing in brief consultations	To explain what motivational interviewing is, its uses, and explanations.
Clinical Skills 2 (3rd semester)	BMJ Best Practice Videos	Selected procedures covered in course syllabus.
	BMJ Learning: Basic Practical Skills	9 out of 10 courses are covered in this subject and are mandatory.
Epidemiology and Biostatistics (5th semester)	BMJ Best Practice Specialities	To choose the topic for their PICO projects and explore background
	Evidence based medicine: a user guide	A comprehensive guide to understanding the reasons for evidence based practice to help students to answer their clinical questions.
	Understanding statistics 1: Interpreting statistics using an example from clinical practice	An interactive module outlining the basics of different ways of presenting statistical data from a clinical trial.
	Understanding statistics 2: What is statistical uncertainty?	An interactive module describing how to interpret the results of a trial, including what statistical significance means, using practical examples to work through.
Family Medicine (8th semester)	Managing hypertension in primary care	This is an overview of the latest guidance on managing patients with hypertension & a guide to differentiating between primary & secondary hypertension.
	Managing type 2 diabetes in primary care	This course guides you through the management of type 2 diabetes in primary care.
	Clinical pointers: Perinatal mental illness	This course is a practical guide on how to identify and manage perinatal mental illness in primary care.
	Generalised anxiety disorder	This module offers a practical guide to managing adult patients with generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) in primary care.

To learn more about the BMJ Clinical Decision Support Training Initiative in Georgia or to share your feedback contact Morgan Kindberg
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