Guidance for Advanced Trainees in Geriatric Medicine

Academic honesty and plagiarism requirements for projects

This material is based on a presentation to VGMTP on 18/2/16. It should not be used as a substitute to familiarizing yourself with the [RACP Policy on Academic Honesty](#).
• Projects are a major hurdle requirement for a specialist qualification
• The purpose of this requirement is for the trainee to investigate a relevant topic in depth and with scientific rigor; and to communicate original thought in an articulate and succinct manner.
• It is important to carefully read the project guidelines outlined in the handbook, and in particular ensure that you understand the statements regarding academic honesty and plagiarism before you sign the project cover sheet
Imagine that you have chosen the following topic for your project:

Anticholinergic Medications in older People – a Literature Review
Which of the following 4 scenarios constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism?
You come across this article that you consider summarizes the topic very well.
Scenario 1.

You cut and paste the highlighted sentences into your project.

As it is only two sentences you do not cite the source.

**Anticholinergic burden in older women: not seeing the wood for the trees?**

A high anticholinergic burden in this group was driven by the use of multiple medicines with lower anticholinergic potency rather than the use of medicines with higher potency.

**Abstract**

Objectives: To identify medicines contributing to anticholinergic burden among community-dwelling women.

Design, setting and participants: Retrospective data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH),

Main outcome measures: Anticholinergic burden.

Conclusions: A high anticholinergic burden may be driven by the use of multiple medicines with lower anticholinergic potency rather than the use of medicines with higher anticholinergic burden. Anticholinergic medicines used were predictive of a higher burden.

Although women outnumber men in the older population, research into anticholinergic medicine use has focused predominantly on mixed sex and male samples. However, United States studies have shown that 15% of women aged 75 years and older12 and 11% of women aged 50–79 years13 used anticholinergic medicines.

**Methods**

1. Identify medicines and combinations of medicines that make the greatest contribution to anticholinergic burden; and
2. Describe the predictors of high anticholinergic medicine burden.
Scenario 2.

You cut and paste the highlighted sentences into your project.

You cite the source.

As it is only two sentences, and you have cited the source, you do not use quotation marks.
Scenario 3.

You re-write the highlighted section in your own words.

As you have used your own words you do not use quotation marks or cite the reference.
Scenario 4.

You read all the articles in the bibliography of this article and summarize them in your own words.

As this is a recent article you do not do another literature search.
Which of these 4 scenarios constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism?

1. Cutting and pasting two sentences

2. Cutting and pasting two sentences, and citing the reference

3. Rewriting the content of the two sentences in your own words but not citing the reference

4. Relying on the bibliography without repeating the literature search
Which of these 4 scenarios constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism?

1. Cutting and pasting two sentences

2. Cutting and pasting two sentences and citing the reference

3. Rewriting the content of the two sentences in your own words but not citing the reference

4. Relying on the bibliography without repeating the literature search

All 4 scenarios constitute plagiarism.
Plagiarism is the act of representing the original work of another as one’s own work, without appropriate acknowledgement of the source.

Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is deemed by RACP as a form of misconduct and carries strict penalties.

Examples of plagiarism include:

i. Cutting and pasting without using quotation marks or citing the source.

ii. Paraphrasing of another person’s work that keeps its meaning or progressive thread of ideas intact, with very minor changes from the original.

iii. Claiming to have done a greater percentage of work than is actually the case.
Scenarios:
1. Cutting and pasting two sentences
   Cutting and pasting is in breach of the policy.
2. Cutting and pasting two sentences, and citing the reference
   Direct quotes should be in quotation marks.
   Generally this should not be more than one or two lines.
3. Rewriting the content of the two sentences in your own words but not citing the reference
   If the meaning or thread of ideas is intact, even if rewritten in your own words, you must cite the source.
4. Relying on the bibliography without repeating the literature search
   This is plagiarism as the literature search was represented as the work of the trainee.
On-line tutorials on referencing and plagiarism are widely available including from Monash University and University of Technology Sydney.

Take this 10 question quiz
RACP Geriatric Medicine Training Handbook

RACP policy on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Online tutorial from Monash University

Online tutorial and quiz from University of Technology Sydney

RACP Geriatric Medicine Education Officer geriatrics@racp.edu.au

Victorian Geriatric Medicine Training Program vgmtp@svha.org.au

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