

## Projects for Practicum III/IV

Student teams for practicum III and IV will be required as part of their experience to complete a project specific to their practicum site. Here are the main points about the projects:

- ❖ The project should be chosen by the third week of the practicum
- ❖ All projects must be approved by the practicum preceptor(s)
- ❖ When selecting a project consider the following:
  - The data for the project must be able to be collected during the semester
  - The data collected should be plentiful enough to have meaning
  - The collection and manipulation of the data required to produce results should be simple enough to allow the students to do it themselves
  - The results of the project should have value
- ❖ Students will present the results of their project at a poster presentation set up specifically for this purpose at the end of the semester.
- ❖ Guidelines for producing a good poster presentation are available via the course website (<http://www.cop.ufl.edu/safezone/doty/pha5943/index.htm>)
- ❖ The project will count for 10% of the final practicum grade
- ❖ Posters will be graded by a group of practicum preceptors.
- ❖ Additional time has been set aside at the end of the semester so that students can complete their project and their poster.
- ❖ Projects in future semesters can be a continuation of previous projects, but new data and updated results must be shown to get credit for the project.

## Sample project ideas for Practicum III/IV student teams in community pharmacy settings

Obviously there are many potential projects that could be selected in the community setting. Any area of interest to the student team or the preceptor is fair game. The following list is just a sample.

- 1) Investigate and report the frequency / reasons that pharmacists have to make phone calls to doctors to clarify prescriptions
- 2) Investigate and report the frequency / type of questions that are asked of the pharmacist by patients
- 3) Create a frequently asked questions fact sheet covering questions from project #2 (this would necessitate that #2 had been done by a previous team)
- 4) Investigate and report the frequency and reasons for the refusal of the offer to counsel by the client (how often was it not accepted and why)
- 5) Investigate and Report adherence data on maintenance medications for chronic disease states:
  - a) Inhaler corticosteroids
  - b) HTN medications
  - c) Anticoagulants
  - d) Antihyperlipidemics
  - e) Etc.
- 6) Investigate and report the frequency and accuracy of weight based dosing of medications for pediatric patients
- 7) Create an antibiotic call back service and document its effect on adherence and problem detection/resolution
- 8) Create an at risk patient reminder service and document its effect. Examples:
  - a) Patients needing flu shots
  - b) Diabetic patients and foot/eye care
- 9) Create a disease state monitoring service and document the number of patients disease state is not controlled
  - a) Asthma
  - b) HTN
  - c) Diabetes
- 10) Create an inhaler technique monitoring service and document the number of patient's whose inhaler technique is adequate (and possible see if this is related to other factors, e.g. length of therapy, age, etc.)
- 11) Investigate and report the length of time between when a prescription is called in and when it is picked up.
- 12) Investigate and report the number of minutes the pharmacist spends on the phone in a given period of time and the purpose of the communication (insurance, doctor's office, patient, etc.)
- 13) Create frequently asked questions patient directed counseling documents based on
  - a) Disease state
  - b) Patient age
  - c) Drug class
  - d) Common ADR's
  - e) Self care

## **Sample project ideas for Practicum III/IV student teams in institutional pharmacy settings**

**Obviously there are many potential projects that could be selected in the institutional setting. Any area of interest to the student team or the preceptor is fair game. The following list is just a sample.**

- 1) Create a “drip round” service and report on its effectiveness.
- 2) Investigate and report the rate of return of IV antibiotic doses and the economic impact
- 3) Investigate and report the frequency with which patient’s height and weight are recorded on admission
- 4) Create a service to insure that Heights and weights are recorded on the charts and in the pharmacy computer so that appropriate dosing can be done.
- 5) Participate in a DUE and report the results
- 6) Participate in an ADR reporting service and report the results
- 7) Participate in a renal dosing adjustment service and report the results
- 8) Investigate and report the length of time from when an order is written to when the medication is delivered to the floor.
- 9) Investigate and report the frequency / reasons that pharmacists have to make phone calls to doctors to clarify orders
- 10) Create an at risk patient flu shot reminder service and document its effect.
- 11) Create an inhaler technique monitoring service and document the number of patient’s whose inhaler technique is adequate (and possible see if this is related to other factors, e.g. length of therapy, age, etc.)
- 12) Investigate and report whether patient’s drug allergies are properly documented in the chart and in the computer system
- 13) Create a pain assessment verification service to determine how often patients’ pain is assessed and documented
- 14) Investigate and report the number of Acute MI patients:
  - a) with a history of smoking, who are given smoking cessation advice or counseling during.
  - b) who are given aspirin within 24 hours of arrival or within 24 hours prior to arrival at the hospital.
  - c) who are prescribed aspirin at discharge from the hospital.
  - d) who receive beta blocker medication within the first 24 hours of arrival to the hospital.