

PHA 5944

Practicum IV

Project Abstracts: 2003



Outpatient Sites

Edited by: Courtney Jackson, PharmD candidate
Randell Doty, PharmD

Practicum Site: Shands at Alachua General Hospital

Preceptor: Cynthia Batts

Practicum Students: Annalisa Duck
Christopher Evans
Edward Grace
Tonja Lepir

Title: *“Determining the standard deviation of vancomycin trough levels in AGH’s patient population compared to the standard documented population kinetics value.”*

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine how accurate the estimated (calculated) trough value for a given dose of vancomycin based on population kinetics compares to the actual measured trough values.

Methods: The project involves monitoring vancomycin patients at the time of admission and focusing on their initial dose of vancomycin. Each day we are able to detect the new vancomycin patients from the pharmacists’ charts. We then record the estimated (suggested) dose of vancomycin recommended by the pharmacy, and determine whether it is the same dose ordered by the physician. Further, we record the estimated trough value and the actual trough value to compare the difference.

Conclusion: Our results are still pending as our gathering of information is incomplete at the current time. Our goal (per C. Batts) is to collect data from 30 different vancomycin patients. Our values and results along with our conclusion will be available at the end of the current semester (end of the practicum period). Our project has been approved by our preceptor and we all await the results eagerly.

Practicum Site: Shands Hospital Team #1

Practicum Students: Amerman, Chris
Bowles, Jenny
Edgar, Katherine
Mead, Alice
Powrie, Yvette

Title: *“JCAHO Compliance at Shands Hospital Pharmacy at the University of Florida”*

Purpose: Upon completion of the inspections, a percentage compliance report will be compiled in order to determine adherence to JCAHO standards.

Methods: Shands at the University of Florida is having their JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) inspection in June 2003. The practicum students will be serving as “spot surveyors” while visiting pharmacy and nursing areas throughout the hospital and checking for the same types of the things that the JCAHO inspectors will check, such as: outdates, drug storage in the proper place (i.e. injectable drugs should not be stored near topical drugs), storage of supplies within 18 inches of the ceiling (to avoid interference with fire sprinklers), unlocked medcarts, and lack of expiration dates on labeling. These inspections will be conducted on a “surprise” basis.

Conclusions: Findings and conclusion will be determined at the end of the surveillance period.

Practicum Site: Shands Cancer Center Pharmacy

Practicum Students: Toan Nguyen
Jerret Pigott
Kelsey Weber

Preceptor: Kathleen Reilly

Title: *“Documentation of Controlled Substances (Schedule II-V) at Shands Cancer Center Pharmacy”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to document the use of Schedule II-V Controlled substances at Shands Cancer Center Pharmacy. We are performing a quality control check to ensure what the pharmacy dispenses is the same as what the patient receives. Any discrepancies must be documented and wasted by two nurses/technicians.

Methods: For the 28 days of the month of February, we recorded the controlled medications that were dispensed from the pharmacy. This record included patient’s name, identification number, and the amount of medication dispensed. Then we went to the nurses’ station to perform the quality control check. We compared the pharmacy records with the administration records to verify that the amount dispensed was actually given to the patient or properly wasted.

Conclusions: The information gathered will be reviewed for accuracy and with the final data a percentage to illustrate the amount administered to the patient (including waste) over the amount dispensed by the pharmacy will be determined. Hopefully this percentage will be very close to 100 to indicate that the Cancer Center can account for all Schedule II-V medications dispensed by the pharmacy for the month of February.

Practicum Site: Shands at Vista

Practicum Students: Bruce Arnold
Jessica Ball
Kimberly Barkoviak
Jamie Christian/Chicola
Charles Kiefer

Title: *“Phenytoin Prophylaxis: Is It Worth It?”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to take an objective look at phenytoin use in Shand’s hospital patients.

Methods: Several parameters are recorded everyday for each inpatient on phenytoin therapy including: patient; phenytoin indication; dosing and dose schedule of phenytoin; serum albumin; phenytoin plasma levels; BUN; any adverse effects discussed during team meetings; and seizure frequency. This data will then be analyzed to determine if this institution’s use of phenytoin is appropriate.

Conclusions: Thus far, several physical rehabilitation patients with lower than normal phenytoin plasma values are on phenytoin prophylaxis and remain seizure free. The other psychiatric patients have plasma values within the normal ranges and remain seizure free. There have been no major adverse effects for either patient population. Thus far, the objective assessment of inpatient use of phenytoin.

Practicum Site: VA Medical Center

Practicum Students: Tara Bruno
Jai Ruey Chia
Kristin Foli
Greg Gudvangen
Bernard Renner

Title: *“Patient Consent Audit”*

Purpose: To develop a tool and procedure for conducting an audit of patient consent forms in the Pharmacy Research department at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Methods: We are in the process of designing a set of procedures that can be followed by anyone conducting an audit to verify that signed consent forms are on file for all human subjects in Institutional Review Board approved studies. The protocol will include a map of the pharmacy, explicit procedures to conduct the audit, and forms for audit documentation.

Conclusions: We are using group decision making and brainstorming techniques in order to develop the audit procedure. The final protocol will be approved by the Research Pharmacist. We will test the protocol by conducting a mini audit for dates not yet determined.

Practicum Site: VA Hospital

Practicum Students: Andryann Pino
Erika Dittmar
Amy Padalia
Milena Gostebski
Amy Garrigus

Title:

Purpose: To gain insight into the hospital patient's expectations for the profession of Pharmacy in the areas of filling, counseling, drug therapy management, and overall satisfaction in the VA hospital

Methods: The way we plan to obtain this information is through a survey. It has various questions, each inquiring about one of the areas that we are trying to obtain information on. Once the data is collected we are going to put it into a spreadsheet and graph it so that conclusions can be made about the information collected.

Conclusions: Many people do not understand the role that pharmacists play. Our survey is representative of the hospital patient's perception.

Practicum Site: The Village

Practicum Students: Kelly Schlachter
Victoria Hemstreet
Philip Kostowicz
Beth Collup

Title: *“Development of a Medication Review System”*

Purpose: to describe how to establish a medication review system to be used at assisted living facilities in The Village, a senior living community located in northwest Gainesville.

Methods: Patients came from one of the following facilities: (1) Rose Court- an assisted living facility for those who require varying levels of assistance with the activities of daily living; (2) Azalea Trace- an assisted living facility for those with moderate to severe forms of dementia, patients in this facility require assistance with all activities of daily living. At the beginning of the semester, nine students were divided into four groups (1 group with 3 members, and 3 groups with 2 members). Each team was assigned a patient to interview about their current medications. Team members evaluated the patient’s drug therapy and made recommendations to faculty advisors. Advisors provided feedback and students made adjustments before presenting their recommendations to a panel of nurses at the Village. Recommendations were made in the form of a SOAP note and were attached to the patient’s file. Patients could take recommendations with them to the doctor. In the event that a doctor authorized a change to the patient’s medication, a sheet attached to the SOAP note provided the doctor, and nurses at the Village, key guidelines for initiating new therapy..

Conclusion: By evaluating drug therapy, the goal is to reduce polypharmacy in the elderly and avoid life-threatening drug interactions.

Practicum Site: The Village

Practicum Students: Cam Le
Yen Chau
Jaime Wiens
Trinh Pham
Lily Moy

Preceptor: Dr. Dan Robinson

Title: *“How to set up an Expert Panel”*

Purpose: To set up an expert panel to provide information to the independent living residents of The Village according to their special interests.

Methods: Director of The Village provided a list of potential topics that interested the residents of The Village. The list was then provided to the residents in the form of a survey. The residents were to choose the top three topics that interested them most. The results were then tallied after three weeks. Based on the results, an expert was invited to speak on the three chosen topics. The date was chosen, and the Director set up a time and location to accommodate the appropriate amount of people.

Conclusions: The three chosen topics were herbals, brand-generic, and over-prescribing. At the conclusion of the expert panel discussion, a survey will be provided to the residents for feedback.

Practicum Site: North Florida Reception Center

Practicum Students: Marisela Navarro
Helen Choi
Kristy Nasser
Michael Bazley
Anthony Somai

Project Title: *“Evaluation of the Monitoring and Treatment of Hepatitis C”*

Purpose: To monitor management and treatment of Hepatitis C positive patients.

Methods: A standard form has been created outlining key questions that will be used to assess the management and treatment of Hepatitis C positive patients. These questions will be answered by reviewing the patients’ medical records. The information gathered will help determine whether patients are being treated appropriately, and if lack of treatment exists, to determine the possible reasons for this. A print-out of patients testing positive is updated periodically. Confidentiality of the patients is maintained by assigning each a case number. This case number is what appears on the form where the information gathered is recorded. The corresponding patient identification is kept in the pharmacy. Each member of the group has signed a confidentiality statement saying that all information gathered will be kept confidential and ownership of the information remains with the Department of Corrections.

Conclusions: The patients reviewed so far are not receiving treatment for Hepatitis C. Genotypes for these patients have also not been done in order to be able to initiate treatment. Signed treatment refusal statements have not been found in the medical records. Documented depression has also not been found in most profiles which would render a patient to not be treated. Treatment refusals and depression are not the reasons why there is a lack of treatment. Further evaluation of all positive Hepatitis C patients is needed to investigate the other possible reasons.

Practicum Site: Option Care

Preceptor: Randy Ealy

Practicum Students: Neil Edlen
James Puerner
Kevin Moore
Sean Lavelle
Jeremey Brown

Title: *“Patient Satisfaction Survey of Home Healthcare Pharmacy”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to assess patient satisfaction with the healthcare provided by Option Care Pharmacy. The aspects of home healthcare, which we will evaluate are delivery speed and accuracy of order, patient/pharmacist correspondence.

Methods: We will collect data by calling patients and asking them questions regarding the aforementioned categories. We will have the patients grade their feelings on each subject on a scale of 1-5. Using this scale we will be able to graph the patient’s responses and analyze the data in order to arrive at a conclusion.

Conclusions: Currently we are in the process of collecting information from the patients. Therefore, our results are inconclusive.

Practicum Site: Shands Med/Surg Satellite

Preceptor: Kathleen Reilly

Practicum Students: Kristen Garris
Nancy Borja
Kim Holden
Stacy Howell
Michelle Nguyen

Title: *“Health practitioners’ adherence to JACHO Standards.”*

Purpose: JACHO has told institutions that they must eliminate the use of abbreviations in prescription orders. Shands UF chose to eliminate "U" for unit to comply with this new standard. Housestaff have been educated on the new guidelines, but unfortunately, there are still many practitioners who use "u" instead of “units.” We are collecting data to get back with the pharmacy director to eliminate such practices by June 2003.

Methods:

1. Go to a specific satellite (monday student- peds, Tuesday student- oncology, Wednesday student- ICU, Thursday student- patients A-M in Med/Surg, Friday student- N-Z in Med/Surg)
2. Review all orders from the previous day (monday student looks at Sunday orders, Tuesday student-Monday orders, etc)
3. Count how many order sheets were reviewed, count how many times units was written out (include drug and non drug orders-eg blood), count how many times "u" was used instead of units
4. Data should be collected by nursing unit (found on top of fax) and by pharmacy satellite
5. Anytime "u" is used... look to see if the patient has a second order where the order has been rewritten (nursing is supposed to be doing this)

Conclusion: Since the project was started last week, we do not yet have many findings. However, we have already noticed that there are still housestaff using “u.” We will continue to collect data for the next 2 weeks. Shands staff must comply with JACHO standards in order to prevent errors in filling prescription orders.