

PHA 5944

Practicum IV

Project Abstracts: 2003



Outpatient Sites

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Practicum Site: Eckerd Drugs, Archer Road

Preceptors: Tim Grainger-Rousseau and Shelton Sherrouse

Practicum Students: Theresa Okorochukwu
Sergeson Richard
Mike Tesson

Title: *“An Evaluation of the Eckerd Continuous Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP)”*

Purpose: This study is designed to monitor and document areas for improvement in the prescription filling process. Eckerd drug stores have a continuing quality improvement program in place that monitors for errors made during the prescription filling process. This project will assess the type of error(s) and where and when these occur in the process, indicating areas that need improvement.

Methods: Errors made during the processing of prescriptions are recorded as the standard of practice in the pharmacy. This data will be collated for the study period quarter of 2003 and for the previous final quarter of 2002. Data collected for each error include: patient information (name and date of birth), drug (name, strength, dosage form), quantity, sig. (wrong or incomplete), refill number, Dr. information (name, DEA#, address), and bag (wrong patient). These errors will be further categorized into day of the week and time of events. After the errors are categorized into the data fields, the information will be evaluated to determine which are the common errors that occur and which days and times of the day these occur. This data will be used to determine root causes for these errors and identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion: Currently, the results for the project are still pending. Data will continue to be gathered through the end of March. The results should aid Eckerd's Pharmacy in identifying areas in their prescription filling process that are in need of improvement.

Practicum Site: Eckerd Drugs, Tower Road

Practicum Team: Jason Beattie
Laura Busenbark
Pooravi Gohil
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Christopher Hood

Title: *“Providing Alcohol Consumption Counseling to Patients Taking Medications Which Have an Adverse Drug Reaction with Alcohol”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to provide readily available written counseling to patients taking medications, which may have adverse drug reactions with alcohol. Examples are sedatives (such as barbiturates, benzodiazepines, opiates, etc.), sleeping aids, anti-depressants, etc.

Methods: We will create a printed, easy-to-read, flier, which will be placed in a display near the check out or waiting area of the pharmacy. It will be made noticeable by having a title encouraging patients to take a free flier. The display will have a visible question, “Do you take medications to help you sleep, for depression, for pain? If you do, you should not consume alcohol while taking these drugs. Please take a flier explaining why.” There will be one flier containing brief, simple explanations of what alcohol can do to the patient taking each type of medication. We will be mindful of how many fliers we start with and how many are actually being picked up by patients. This will allow us to see if patients are responding to this approach.

Conclusions:

Practicum Site: Eckerd Drugs, Hunter's Crossing

Practicum Students: Amjad Abu Mallouh
Carmenza Castro
Oscar Guzman
Joey Gimbrone

Title: *"Analysis of OTC/Prescription Drug Awareness"*

Purpose: To assess the need for improved patient education within the community. The OTC study should allow the pharmacist to have a better understanding of specific community needs and thus increase the educational resources available to benefit the patient.

Methods: The types of questions that are asked to the pharmacist regarding over-the-counter drugs, prescription drugs, and medical devices over a 1-month time frame were analyzed.

Conclusions: The results from the prescription drug analysis should allow both the physician and the pharmacist to become aware of areas to target for therapy improvement and prevention of adverse drug reactions. Results indicate that patients mainly ask questions regarding allergy, cold/cough medications (OTC) and drug interactions regarding cardiovascular prescription medications. Moreover, this study will allow for improvement of patient drug therapy and prevention of adverse drug reactions.

Practicum Site: Eckerd Drugs At Westgate

Practicum Students: William Terneus Jr
Tapan Shah
Robert Rantinella
Timothy Cheung
Arthur Yeung

Title: *“Do Patients Understand the Purpose of the Signature?”*

Purpose: This project is designed to find the understanding of patients regarding their right to consult with a pharmacist.

Methods: Patients are going to be asked through a survey on their level of understanding regarding the signature they sign when they pick up their prescription. Patients routinely sign the book not knowing what they are signing.

Conclusions: According to The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA '90), pharmacists are required to provide consultation regarding their prescription. Therefore, there is a requirement that pharmacies ask the patients if they have questions regarding their prescription therapy. Most retail pharmacies as an assurance to themselves keep a record logbook of signatures verify that the pharmacy has complied with the OBRA '90. In conclusion, patients need to be informed on their right and importance with consulting the pharmacist and they need to know what they are signing.

Practicum Site: Eckerd Drugs on 13th St. and 16th Ave.

Practicum Students: Anna Battaglia
Loveta Epie
Jeff Hyde
Ryan Jaglal
Damien Haynes

Title: *“What Did Your Doctor Tell You About Your New Prescription?”*

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine what information of which patients are most and least informed by their doctors concerning their prescription medications.

Methods: The design of this project is based on a voluntary anonymous survey titled “What Did Your Doctor Tell You About Your New Prescription?” The survey was made available to patients at Eckerds pharmacy on 13th and 16th Street in Gainesville, FL. The survey consists of nine questions asking patients if they feel they were well informed, somewhat informed, or not informed by their doctor about the medication prescribed for them. Results of the survey will be tallied and graphed to show the areas in which patients felt most informed about their medications and those areas in which they lacked information.

Conclusions: So far our results show that patients felt most informed by their doctor of the purpose for their prescribed medication. On the other hand, patients felt least informed about things to avoid while taking their medication such as durgs, food, and sunlight. These results will be compiled and used to provide patients with a list of main points about which they should be informed by a healthcare professional concerning their medications.

Practicum Site: Student Health Care Center Pharmacy

Practicum Students: Bonnie May Steffee
Mark Peg
Leigh Jolliff
Nicole Scheiber
Jayne White

Title: *“A Little Information Goes a Long Way”*

Purpose: During our patient counseling, we found there was a need for additional patient education because many were not aware of simple yet important facts about their medications. For example, many patients were unaware that they should not take other over-the-counter cold medicines while on prescription decongestants. Our thought is that we could help decrease the number of drug related problems experienced by patients simply by providing a few key points in a memorable way.

Methods: We are creating small patient information inserts for medications that are most frequently prescribed in the Student Health Care Pharmacy. We counsel the patients whenever possible and provide them with the standard patient information printout, but we felt there was a need to provide “at a glance” education for the more common and important information. For example, when a patient presents a prescription for an antibiotic and birth control pills, our insert warns of decreased effectiveness of birth control pills for that cycle, and the need for back-up protection. We use bright colors and graphics on the inserts so that the information “pops” out for the patient.

We obtained a print-out from the pharmacy with details on drug type and amount dispensed over the period 12/24/02 through 02/24/03, and used this as our representative information. We chose the top five drugs dispensed to create inserts. Our preceptor thought the small, colorful, information-at-a-glance insert idea would work well for the students/patients

Conclusions: The consumers for this pharmacy are predominantly students who seem to be interested in actively participating in their health outcomes. Our inserts will help them achieve more successful outcomes with their medications because they will be better informed.

Practicum Site: Plaza Pharmacy

Practicum Students: Stefanie Edinger
Teresa Finney
Megan Hedin-Jones
Victoria Castiglione (Taylor)
Elham Alipour-Mohbepour

Title:

Purpose: The purpose is to prove the hypothesis that patient compliance will increase with the added convenience of medication delivery at the Plaza Pharmacy.

Methods: By measuring compliance, between patients who receive their medication through delivery versus those who have to come to the pharmacy monthly to pick up their medication, a clear pattern of the benefit of delivery should emerge. In order to gather data, the pharmacy database will be accessed to generate the top ten patients in the two categories being analyzed for the past year. These profiles will be reviewed and only the medications that the patient has filled for a consecutive three-month period will be used. An equation will be applied to measure compliance based on the number of doses and days between refills.

Conclusions: This study should prove that adding a convenience of medication delivery should improve patient compliance.

Practicum Site: Publix NW 13th Street

Practicum Students: Kristy DeLand
Natasha Gonzalez
Priya Patel
Anne Rafidi
Jessica Sutly

Title: “*Commonly Misunderstood Prescription Directions*”

Purpose: To determine patient interpretation of common prescription directions

Methods: We chose to survey patients at a community pharmacy to find out how well they understood commonly used prescription directions. We will collect data by distributing surveys to patients as they come in to collect their prescriptions. The survey consists of eight multiple-choice questions, each with four options to choose from. Upon completion, the surveys will be placed in a closed box to ensure confidentiality.

Conclusion: The results will be collected and the answers will be statistically analyzed to determine what the most common perceptions are. The data will then be presented in the form of graphs and charts in order to show any trends in the results. After the results are collected and analyzed, we will create a pamphlet that identifies the most frequent patient interpretations, and also explains how to correctly translate these common prescription directions.

Practicum Site: Publix Hunter's Crossing

Preceptors: Mary Reinert & Chris Fuller

Practicum Students: Chris Workman
Keith Lowe
Jacob Reiche
Jitendra Sarawat
Tuan Doan

Title: *“Risk Identification in the Overuse of Inhaled Albuterol and Under-use of Inhaled Fluticasone”*

Purpose: As a continuation of last year's project, we continued to examine the overuse of inhaled albuterol and the under-use of inhaled corticosteroids for the treatment of asthma. Pharmacists can play an important role in reducing asthma exacerbations by detecting when albuterol inhalers have been overused and fluticasone has been underused.

Methods: Data was collected from the Publix Pharmacy at Hunter's Crossing and bar graphs were constructed for the refill history of albuterol inhalers and the three strengths of fluticasone inhalers for six months.

Conclusions: Based upon the data collected during our experience, we intend to survey the use of albuterol and fluticasone in patients at Publix Pharmacy at Hunter's Crossing and determine whether they are well controlled based on their refill history. We are currently conducting further analysis of our data in order to determine non-compliance in the treatment of asthma. Furthermore, we are developing ways to improve compliance by patient education and counseling.

Practicum Site: Publix at Tower Road

Practicum Students: Brandy Karn
James Hicks
Paul Ferguson
Dave McPartland
Peter McDonough

Title: *“Public Expectations of Community Pharmacists”*

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to look at the perception of the public of the role of a community pharmacist. Time spent waiting for prescriptions, physician versus pharmacist consultation and preferred method of obtaining refill prescriptions will all be examined.

Methods: Information for this project will be collected in the form of a survey. There will be five questions to answer and should take no longer than actually filling the prescription does. Once the data is collected, it will be analyzed in the forms of charts and graphs and compared to the data obtained from a previous group.

Conclusions:

Practicum Site: Publix at Butler Plaza

Preceptors: Reena Arndt and Kara Shafer

Practicum Students: Jennifer Steinberg
Amy Seibold
Brian Anger
Kerry Dennis
Karrie Rogers

Project Title: *“Reference Guide for Inhaled Intranasal Corticosteroids”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to provide the pharmacists and technicians with a condensed reference guide for inhaled intranasal corticosteroids. Intranasal corticosteroids have become a popular and useful way of managing allergic rhinitis. They are especially commonly prescribed during the spring and summer months in the Gainesville area.

Methods: After researching inhaled intranasal corticosteroids we have found that there are several variations in the doses and techniques of the different medications. The information for the reference guide comes from package inserts, reference books, and clinical pharmacology. This guide will provide access to information so that they pharmacist can counsel patients and answer questions.

Conclusions: We are currently compiling information about the different types of inhalers, usual and maximum doses for each, side effects, adverse reactions, and what to do if a dose is missed.

Practicum Site: Shands Outpatient Pharmacy

Preceptors: John Harbilas and Ann Levine

Practicum Students: Maria Jose Pallares
Diana Hunt
Claudia Lopez
Jim Autry
Bambi Nelson

Title: *“An Evaluation of the Overuse of COX-2 inhibitors”*

Purpose: To identify patients who should or should not be on COX-2 inhibitors and to quantify the cost associated with inappropriate therapy.

Methods: Guidelines or criteria were developed to identify individuals who should be on COX-2 inhibitors. A survey of about 100 patients will be conducted by viewing prescription records to identify patients that fit the criteria for taking COX-2 inhibitors. Once the data is collected the information will be extrapolated onto a excel sheet that will be used to analyze the data. Appropriate graphs and statistics will be used to develop conclusions. Finally this information will be presented to Shand’s health care providers to hopefully implement any changes that are necessary.

Conclusions: The results of the survey will show that there is an over use of COX-2 inhibitors in patients for whom the medication is not indicated.

Practicum Site: Wise's Pharmacy

Practicum Students: Emerson Molina
Kathleen Dopp
Nefertiti Abdullah
Benjamin Spitz
Alifia Waliji

Title: *“Prescribing Frequency of Antipsychotics—Typicals versus Atypicals at Wise's Pharmacy—Community Pharmacy”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to determine the prescribing habits of local physicians who serve patients in the greater Gainesville area who have their prescriptions filled at Wise's Pharmacy.

Methods: The majority of patients who present to Wise's Pharmacy are treated for psychiatric disorders. More specifically, our patients are treated with antipsychotic agents (please see list below). Generally, our patients use the State of Florida medical programs to assist in payment of their medications (Florida Medicaid Program, Indigent Drug Program, and etc.). The above will be determined strictly from statistical data obtained from the pharmacy data at Wise's Pharmacy. The log sheet will be kept by pharmacy students to determine the number of Atypical versus Typical drugs that are prescribed (please refer to background for further explanation). Our hypothesis is that at least 60% of our patients are on antipsychotic medications.

Conclusions: Our conclusion will be to determine the reason and cause for such a high demand for these medications in this area. Our preliminary data suggest that the local patient population is in social isolation.

Practicum Site: Wise's Pharmacy on University Ave

Practicum Students: Stephanie Luke
Thanh Nguyen
Avani Patel
Anisha Varghese
Annamma Varughese

Title: *"Patient Education on Popular Herbal Products"*

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to create an informational guide on common herbal products, to be displayed at Wise's Pharmacy for patient reference.

Methods: The guide will include the common uses, warnings and interactions for each product, which will help patients in the selection and/or avoidance of specific herbal products according to each patient's individual circumstances and needs. In order to create this guide, the herbal products on the shelves of Wise's Pharmacy as well as other common herbal products were first listed. The main ingredients of these were then researched for their reported uses, interactions and warnings. Finally, this information was compiled in a chart for easy patient reference.

Conclusions: The expected results of this project are to prevent potential drug-drug interactions, drug-disease interactions and other harmful effects that may result from the use of herbal products.

Practicum site: Walgreens Pharmacy, 13street.

Practicum Team: Adolfo Torres

An Ho

Waler Ochalek

Ashley Simmons

Title: *“Assessing Hypertensive Patients Quality of Life as it Pertains to their Anti-hypertensive Drug Therapy”*

Purpose: The purpose of our project is to asses the quality of life of diagnosed hypertensive patients, currently on a drug therapy regimen. Our project will emphasize on patients quality of life, such as side effects, drug reactions, control of hypertension and affordability.

Methods: We have designed a five questions survey, very simple and straight forward which asks for questions to be rated as 1 being the best and 5 being the worse outcome of their treatment. Patients will be instructed how to answer the questions, to avoid misinterpretation of the questions, and to prevent bogus data collection.

Conclusion: Our goal is to see the effect of anti-hypertensive drugs on patients' lifes. Data is being collected personally at various Walgreens pharmacies in the Gainesville area and results are still pending. We will continue to gather data until the second week of April.