Selection of Non-Direct Patient Care Rotations by Entry-Level PharmD students (SENDER Study)

Monica Zhang1, Janice Ma2, Sylvain Grenier2, Doret Cheng1, Andrea J. Cameron1

1Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
2Canadian Forces Health Services Group (CFHSG), Ottawa, ON

Methods

Objective

Background

• Entry-level PharmD (ELPD) students have limited exposure to non-direct patient care (NDPC) sites prior to their advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE).

• With the increasing expansion of pharmacists’ role in NDPC settings, it is important to generate interest and attract pharmacy students to such non-traditional sites.

• Rotation outlines are a key resource that students use to select their APPE rotations. The standard rotation outline provides information in a mechanistic format. To better emphasize the unique learning experiences offered at the CFHSG site, an experiential version of the rotation outline was developed, which was intended to generate greater interest in the profiled rotation.

Objective

To determine whether the proportion of pharmacy students selecting the CFHSG rotation differs based on assignment to the experiential or mechanistic outline.

Results

Table 1. (Phase 1) Rotation Selections from RxPreceptor®

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Experiential Outline Group (N=10)</th>
<th>Mechanistic Outline Group (N=9)</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected the CFHSG Rotation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>P= 0.466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Select CFHSG Rotation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Rotation Outline Preferences with Free Form Comments (N=10 survey respondents)

Discussion

• Despite an overwhelming preference for the experiential version of the rotation outline, there was no difference in selection of the profiled site among study participants (10% in experiential vs. 22.2% in the mechanistic group, P=0.466).

• All 10 survey respondents preferred the experiential outline over the mechanistic version.

• Content areas that students found helpful included:
  - Examples of other projects done by students;
  - Sample learning objectives that were accompanied by specific learning activities; and
  - Description of unique pharmacist roles, that can be compared and contrasted with those from clinical rotation sites.

• Limitations of this study include:
  - Small study size (N=19).
  - Time limitations may have precluded broader participation.

Conclusions

• A rotation outline which emphasizes the unique learning experiences available at a non-direct patient care training site was well received among entry-level PharmD students at U of T. However, this did not result in greater selection of the site for rotations.

• It is highly possible that pragmatic considerations (e.g., relocation expenses) predominate when students are selecting rotations.

• Further investigation of students’ satisfaction with both project work and other learning activities may identify additional factors that influence their selection of NDPC rotations.

We thank Nicholas Mitsakakis (statistician at LDFP) for his assistance with this project.