



EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS
ADVANCED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE
CONSUMER HEALTH EDUCATION
PHP 593 ELECTIVE, PHP 594 TRACK ELECTIVE

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Rotation Description

Location and meeting times:

The student on this rotation will be traveling to various locations including Rhode Island Free Clinic, Crossroads RI, and East Providence Senior Center. Additional activities will occur that are unique to each rotation block.

Students will be emailed a schedule the week before this rotation begins. Please note that attendance at Rhode Island Free Clinic is expected on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (from 5:30-9pm) and the fourth Monday of each month (from 5:30-9pm). Otherwise, there are responsibilities Monday through Friday with specific times varying with each day and location. There is project time during the week to offset the evening obligations.

If any scheduling conflicts are anticipated, please notify Dr. Estus ahead of time.

Course description:

In the United States, consumers are increasingly seeking and using health-related information from the Internet to make decisions about their personal healthcare. Use of the Internet for healthcare decision-making crosses all age, ethnic and socioeconomic groups since the availability of computer access in many public libraries and other sites. In Rhode Island, the availability of additional computer access through a National Library of Medicine (NLM) grant expands Internet contact especially to elderly and to underserved populations. This experience is designed to allow the student to assist consumers in identifying and interpreting health information on the Internet, and to gain an understanding of issues related to health literacy, adult learning and cultural competency. The students work directly with consumers at sites located in underserved areas, or with elderly individuals. In addition, students identify and evaluate health information from the Internet for the web portal, as well as assess the overall quality of

the websites in the portal. A major part of this rotation is to develop and present a formal Internet health project appropriate for presentation at a professional meeting or publication in a journal. During the experience, students may also present health-related topics to diverse consumer audiences. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism, independence and assertiveness, as well as dedication to the health information needs of underserved populations. Preceptors will provide core readings related to health literacy, adult learning and cultural competency issues which will be discussed with students.

Goals/Objectives:

The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Internet Health Education for sixth year Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) students is designed to:

- Enhance counseling and technology skills to effectively evaluate and discuss Internet health information with consumers and health professionals;
- Improve the students' appreciation of health literacy, adult learning and culture competency-related issues;
- Develop an understanding of the potential risks and benefits of using medical and health information from the Internet in promoting consumer involvement in their own healthcare; and
- Develop a greater knowledge of professional organizations and on-line journals involved with e-health and efforts to improve the quality of health information on the Internet.

Projects and/or required activities:

Required Activities

Consultations	Students will assist consumers in obtaining health information from the Internet. Students will be expected to document all interactions with consumers and health professionals. The documentation forms will be discussed throughout the clerkship.
Weekly Journal	A one-page journal will be submitted electronically to the preceptors at the end of each week. It should incorporate interventions, experiences, and observations relevant to your experience at each site. <i>The journal entry should be reflective in nature and focus on one particular experience/interaction that occurred that week.</i> The student will add to their journal each week throughout the rotation.
Paper/Project	A key part of this experience will be the development, completion and presentation of an Internet-health related project. The purpose of the project is twofold. First and foremost, the project should enhance the student's knowledge concerning a specific e-health or health literacy related topic. Secondly, the project should increase the value and usefulness of the e-health website for consumers and other health professionals. Students are encouraged to submit these

projects as a poster presentation to local or national professional meeting in pharmacy or another health-related discipline.

Initial meetings with preceptors will include discussions of potential topics, content and deadlines for projects. Examples of potential topics include the association between the MMR vaccine and autism, or the use of SSRI in adolescents and the risk of suicide.

The project will be formally presented to students and faculty during the last week of the rotation.

Website Maintenance

An ongoing and integral part of this rotation is to evaluate the existing e-health web portal. In addition to making general suggestions discovered when working with consumers, students will be expected to select a specific topic of e-health to evaluate and update for accuracy. This will be done systematically: The website will be reviewed initially and then a category will either be selected by the student, or assigned by the preceptor, by the end of the first week. Updates and recommendations for e-health will be submitted weekly throughout the rotation. The focus will include: 1) Review of the section for potential reorganization 2) Evaluation of reading level 3) Identification of broken links 4) Recommendations for additions or deletions. The changes will be reviewed and added to the website as appropriate on an ongoing basis.

e-Club

During the rotation, students will identify and discuss a research-related article from an e-health journal. The article citation will be provided at least one week in advance of the date of the discussion (e-club). An example of an e-journal is the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. Journal club participation will occur throughout the rotation with students from other rotations to encourage sharing of ideas.

Required Readings

Readings related to health literacy, diversity and cultural competency and adult learning are an important component of this rotation. Students are encouraged to identify other related articles and to share them with other students and the preceptors. *When discussing the readings with preceptors, please highlight 3 discussion points of your choice (identify beforehand to facilitate group discussion).*

Name of person who students should contact prior to start of rotation:

Erica Estus, Pharm.D. (please contact one week prior to starting this rotation)

Preferred method of contact:

Email: ericaestus@gmail.com

Student Immunization Record Is Required!

Please have your immunization records in your portfolio to present to the sites if needed upon orientation. Specific records are required at the Rhode Island Free Clinic such as **TB and MMR.**