

PHC 594 Pharmacoepidemiology Track or PHP 593 Elective

Rotation: Advanced Pharmacy Concepts

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Advanced Pharmacy Concepts is a clinically driven organization, dedicated to improving health outcomes by improving the quality and efficiency of pharmaceutical prescribing and utilization. The staff of Advanced Pharmacy Concepts consists of professionals with comprehensive knowledge of current medical literature, extensive experience in pharmacy utilization analysis, and a successful track record for program implementation an ongoing assessment. We are committed to building partnerships with patients and health care professionals to improve the delivery of drug therapy and ultimately patients' health.

Advanced Pharmacy Concepts Student Curriculum

1. Provide and overview of opportunities in managed care
The career opportunities available to new pharmacy graduates have changed dramatically form these available ten years ago. Pharmacists' career options include:
 - traditional dispensing pharmacist
 - nursing home consultant pharmacist
 - student educator
 - disease state specialist
 - consultant to physician practice
 - managed care pharmacist
 - drug utilization review specialist
 - legislative/legal consultant
 - patient educator

Working with Advanced Pharmacy Concepts, the student will be immersed in the non-traditional setting. The student will research the literature to become familiar with published treatment guidelines and recent studies. The student will participate in claims data research to identify opportunities to improve drug therapy. Using these findings, the student will create and present programs to improve drug therapy. Throughout this process, the student will interface with various health practitioners including prescribers, pharmacists, medical directors and data base administrators.

The staff at Advanced Pharmacy Concepts consists of pharmacists who have practiced in retail, hospital, home infusion, long-term-care and the PBM industry. Our diverse practice experiences give the student the opportunity to explore several career options during their internship. The student will work with all

members of the team and will have opportunities to discuss practice options with each pharmacist.

2. Introduce students to on-line literature searching, critical evaluation of the literature and technical writing.

The student will be trained to conduct through on-line literature searches through the National Library of Medicine, Aidsline, CDC, NIH, pharmaceutical manufacturers and a variety of other sources. Mastering search techniques allows the student quick, cost effective access to information on the latest drug therapies, clinical guidelines and educational materials.

The student will learn basic clinical study evaluation techniques. Students and pharmacists accessing new drug therapies, conducting clinical evaluations of therapeutic classes and accessing the validity and strength of scientific studies require this skill.

The student will then construct written clinical evaluations based on the results of literature searches and study evaluations. The students writing will be edited and used to educate other practitioners, (i.e. preparing guidelines for Use of Herceptin).

3. Participate in conducting and evaluating provider surveys

The student will participate in development, distribution, and analysis of surveys for the purpose of improving current educational programs. Surveys are typically conducted via fax with follow-up telephone contact if necessary. Analysis is conducted using a variety of spreadsheet and data warehousing software. The student will gain a strong understanding of the methods for conducting a survey tabulating and presenting results. Obtaining feedback is crucial to measuring the strengths and weaknesses of any program. Evaluation of program strengths and weaknesses allows us to modify our educational programs to ensure they have a positive impact.

4. Develop an understanding of pharmacy claims analysis and drug utilization review

The student will participate in analysis of pharmacy claims data to identify opportunities to optimize drug therapy. Specifically the student will be trained to identify patient adherence issues and sub-optimal prescribing issues. The student will then quantify these findings in terms of potential cost savings and enhanced quality of care and incorporate the results into care management and academic detailing programs.

5. Assist in the development of patient and provider education materials

The student will participate in the development of educational materials for the purpose of educating prescribers and patients regarding proper and cost-effective use of pharmaceuticals. The student will also have an opportunity to assist the staff of Advanced Pharmacy Concepts with one-on-one and group presentations to physicians and patients.