BACKGROUND

- The direct patient counseling and consultation between pharmacist and patient is becoming an essential component of patient care with the expanding role of pharmacists in both community and clinical settings.¹
- There is a growing need for additional training for pharmacists in patient communication skills, yet there are lack of evidences and studies on development or implementation of pharmacist-patient communication skill training into college of pharmacy curriculum.²
- The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) states in Standards 2016, under Pre-Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (Pre-APPE) section, to incorporate “stimulated practice experiences” that will provide pharmacy students to put skills and knowledge gained in didactic courses into communicative practice.³
- The challenge of translating concepts of effective pharmacist-patient communication taught in didactic courses into practice in real-life pharmacy setting impose more need for development of stimulated practice opportunities.⁴

OBJECTIVES

Developing a pilot project centered around the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy curriculum in order:

- To assess and strengthen patient communication abilities in first, second, and third year pharmacy students
- To demonstrate importance of interprofessional healthcare for improvement of learning and patient outcomes
- To enhance practical application of basic metabolic screening procedures
- To reinforce didactic curriculum in real world scenarios where application is applicable
- To build confidence and improve competency in direct patient communication skills

METHODS

Pre-assessment

- Students are required to fill out an application for selection and participation
- Students must fill out a pre-assessment survey
- Students are required to attend basic metabolic disease screening orientation
- Students are introduced to the question algorithm and protocols

Onsite Visit

- Preceptor lead student-patient interaction
- Students are required to follow the question algorithm for each patient interaction
- Students practice basic metabolic screening procedures on patients

Post-assessment

- Students are required to fill out a post-assessment survey
- Students are given the opportunity to re-submit application for second experience

ONSITE EXPERIENCES

“I got to have a better understanding in asking patients questions about their medications and health habits.”

-1st year pharmacy student

“ This service learning opportunity has highlighted to me the importance of reaching out to underserved areas or those who do not have easy access to health care. Working with Dr. Castro and my colleagues was a wonderful learning experience and it was very helpful to observe the ways they counseled the patients and also to learn from the information that they were relaying to the patient as well.”

-2nd year pharmacy student

REFERENCES


