Ambulatory Care Experience Objectives

Upon completion of the ambulatory care experience, the student will be able to demonstrate*:

1. **Direct Patient Care**
   a. Participate in the direct care of patients, particularly those with chronic diseases
   a. Data Collection – develop a systematic approach to gather, organize, and prioritize pertinent data through:
      i. Utilizing current and past medical records, patient interviewing, and interaction with other health professionals to obtain any or all of the following information:
         1. History & Physical
         2. Medication use (past and current)
         3. Progress notes
         4. Lab values
         5. Tests/procedures
      ii. Performing any relevant physical assessments not otherwise available
   b. Development of a Problem List – using available information, develop a systematic approach to identify and prioritize patient problems, including the following drug-related problems:
      i. A problem of the patient is not being treated or is not maximally being treated
      ii. A medication the patient is receiving is not indicated or is contraindicated
      iii. A problem of the patient is being caused by one of his/her medications
      iv. The patient is not being properly monitored with respect to his/her drug therapy (efficacy, toxicity, pharmacokinetics)
      v. A drug interaction or potential drug interaction exists
      vi. A drug dose or duration of therapy is inappropriate (especially in the presence of hepatic or renal impairment)
      vii. A drug is interfering with or masking the manifestation of a disease or altering the interpretation of a lab test
      viii. A medication is being administered utilizing an inefficient route or dosage form
      ix. The patient has a medication regimen that is leading to non-compliance
   c. Development of a Sound Therapeutic Plan
      i. Develop a therapeutic plan that includes:
1. Therapy
   a. Non-pharmacological
   b. Pharmacological
2. Goal or endpoint of therapy
3. Monitoring parameters
   ii. Demonstrate the ability to analyze treatment options for each problem identified, while taking into account the following:
      1. Pathophysiology of the disorder
      2. Etiology (especially drug-related causes) of the disorder
      4. Benefit of therapy versus risk
      5. Cost of treatment (particularly problems arising from the financial impact of medication therapy on the patient)
      6. Patient insurance plan formulary
   iii. For each therapeutic option, be able to discuss:
      1. Pharmacology
      2. Dosing
      3. Pharmacokinetics
      4. Routes of administration and/or dosage forms
      5. Contraindications/precautions
      6. Adverse drug reactions
      7. Interactions (drugs, dietary supplements, food, laboratory)
      8. Monitoring parameters for efficacy and toxicity
      9. Other relevant clinical issues related to the medication
   d. Identify necessary patient educational measures related to the therapeutic plan
   e. Implement the therapeutic, educational, and monitoring plans and execute appropriate follow-up
2. **Drug Information Skills**
   a. Use the most appropriate resources to respond to drug information questions from patients and health professionals in an accurate and timely manner
3. **Additional Activities to be Completed**
a. Students are expected to complete at least one project that should result in a written report and/or verbal presentation. Examples include:
   i. Formal case presentation
   ii. Journal club
   iii. Health professional educational in-service
   iv. Patient-centered education
b. Participate in pharmaceutical consults requested by health professionals as they arise; examples include but are not limited to:
   i. Pharmacoeconomic issues
   ii. Compliance counseling
   iii. Chronic disease state management
c. When appropriate, independently prescribe and administer medications under collaborative practice agreements, which may include but are not limited to:
   i. Immunization services
   ii. Pharmacotherapeutic management of chronic disease states
d. Participate in medication therapy management services when applicable
e. Develop the ability to distinguish when a problem falls outside of the scope of pharmaceutical care services, and refer to appropriate provider
f. Understand the role of the pharmacist as an educator in the ambulatory care setting
g. Dispensing of medications, including product samples, when necessary (should be kept to a minimum; less than 10% of the student’s time)
h. Participate in creating guidelines for medication use within the practice
i. Participate in the practice’s drug utilization review process

4. Communication Skills
   a. Develop the ability to effectively communicate, both in writing and verbally, with the patient as well as with health professionals; specific examples include, but are not limited to:
      i. Medication education and patient counseling
      ii. Patient interviewing
      iii. Concise education on selected pharmacotherapeutic topics to health professionals
iv. Concisely communicate responses to drug information requests

v. Complete documentation of interventions made

vi. Effective communication with the healthcare team, including:
   1. Conveying the therapeutic plan
   2. Calling attention to unrecognized patient problems

5. **Professionalism**
   
a. Conduct him/herself in a professional and ethical manner when interacting with patients and health professionals by always:
   
i. Demonstrating the ability to initiate, organize, and complete projects and assignments in an accurate and timely manner
   
ii. Demonstrating the ability to establish effective relationships with patients and other health professionals

iii. Arriving on time and prepared for all rotation activities

iv. Effectively utilizing his/her time

v. Expressing an appropriate degree of empathy for patients and their families

vi. Maintaining protected health information in a confidential manner

vii. Developing the philosophy of a team approach to patient care

Developing habits consistent with life-long learning