Implementation of Community Pharmacy Dispensing Software (MyDispense) in an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Course

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Objective

- The objective of this study was to evaluate the usefulness and applicability of the MyDispense program into a required course.

- Proficiency in the medication use process remains a critical part of pharmacy practice. Full time pharmacists in the United States spent nearly 50% of their workday on patient care services associated with medication dispensing according to the 2014 national pharmacist workforce survey.1

- Approximately 44% of the United States workforce practices in a community pharmacy setting (including independent, small chain, large chain, mass merchandiser, and supermarket settings).1,2

- In 2011, Monash University implemented MyDispense into their curriculum. MyDispense is a simulated learning environment where students can develop and practice the necessary skills to accurately and safely dispense medications to patients in the community pharmacy setting.

Methods

- The US adaptation process was initially completed collaboratively by Monash University, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and University of Connecticut (UConn) Schools of Pharmacy. Mid-development, faculty from St. Louis College of Pharmacy (STLCOP) join in the adaptation process.

- MyDispense was implemented in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course at STLCOP during the P3 year as an activity and assessment for competency in the community pharmacy setting.

- The study consisted of an anonymous online survey available to students in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course for two weeks following completion of the program. The survey was designed to evaluate the usefulness of the MyDispense online pharmacy simulated learning environment implemented during the course of the semester.

Results

- One thing I learned from participating in the MyDispense activities I completed was:

- "It was a very useful course in the sense that I felt I had a good grounding in the area of use systems management; specifically, pharmacy graduates should be "able to manage healthcare needs using human, financial, technological, and physical resources to optimize the safety and efficacy of medication use systems."4

- In the 2016 update, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) reinforces one of the key elements for pharmacy practice as medication use system management; specifically, pharmacy graduates should be "able to manage healthcare needs using human, financial, technological, and physical resources to optimize the safety and efficacy of medication use systems."4

- The release of MyDispense in the US has resulted in adoption of the software by fifteen other US schools of pharmacy, including UK, and this number continues to grow as other universities experiment with its utility in their curricula.

Qualitative Responses

- What difficulties did you encounter with the program or what elements do you feel the program lacked?

- "I think this would be extremely beneficial especially to students who have never had experience in a community pharmacy setting."

- "It was very, very similar to the type of work that a pharmacist would be doing in a community pharmacy setting."

- "I learned how to correctly check a filled prescription when dispensing as over-the-counter (OTC) medication."

- "Patients will not always give you the straightforward answers you are looking for; sometimes you have to dig deeper."

- "It was a [difficult] at first, but if there wasn't a step by step guide to walk me through the program through the program or if there was a book that you could look back to, it could be incorporated."

- "One thing I learned from participating in the MyDispense activities I completed was:

- "I understood the need to complete a patient assessment and provide patient counseling when dispensing as over-the-counter (OTC) medication."

- "I learned how to correctly check a filled prescription when dispensing as over-the-counter (OTC) medication."

- "I understood the need to complete a patient assessment and provide patient counseling when dispensing as over-the-counter (OTC) medication."

- "It was easy to follow. It was just a matter of clicking through the program."

Implications

- In the 2016 update, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) reinforces one of the key elements for pharmacy practice as medication use system management; specifically, pharmacy graduates should be “able to manage healthcare needs using human, financial, technological, and physical resources to optimize the safety and efficacy of medication use systems.”4

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4. Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Standards 2016. Available at: https://www.aacu.org/doctoralliteracy/standards/2016/

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