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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.

Background

1) Pharmacy designed students in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course for two assessment for competency in the community pharmacy setting.

MyDispense was implemented in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course at Monash where students can develop and practice the necessary skills to

Monash University implemented MyDispense into their 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.2 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 (UCom) 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

Qualitative Responses

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

1) hard to use at first, but once got the hang of it was a little better
2) the auxiliary labels were really hard to read. The program was very
difficult and overwhelming to navigate through.
3) I understood the need to complete a patient assessment and provide patient counseling when recommending an over-the-counter (OTC) medication
4) hard to use at first, but after I got the hang of it was much better
5) "It was very, very similar to the type of work that a pharmacist
would have done in the previous work setting.
6) it was a little easier than I thought it would be
7) it was a [difficult] at first, but if there wasn’t a step by step

Discussion

Students’ overall perception of MyDispense was not affected by previous community pharmacy experience (p = 0.17).

This study to evaluates the impact of MyDispense with a cohort of P3 students in an Advanced Pharmacy Practice course. This data can be used to help implement MyDispense in other pharmacy school curricula.

Implications

In the 2016 update, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) reinforces one of the key elements for pharmacy practice as medication 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

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.

References

1) Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Standards 2016. Available at https://accredit.org/standards/

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The authors would like to acknowledge the full contributions of the Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. In addition, the authors would like to acknowledge:

The faculty at USCF and UConn for their contributions to this research and the USA development of MyDispense, as well as St. Louis College of Pharmacy, University of Michigan, the University of Kentucky for their support in continued implementation.

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