

TITLE:

PERCEPTION OF USM's PHARMACY
STUDENTS REGARDING CLINICAL
PHARMACY SPECIALIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Principles of clinical pharmacy also involve caring values, knowledge, experience and judgment. Clinical pharmacy also oriented to analysis the population needs related to medicine, ways of administration, and pattern of use and the effect of the drug. Like other outside countries, clinical pharmacy in Malaysia also applying specialization of clinical pharmacy. Objective of this study is to determine the knowledge and perception of University of Science Malaysia's (USM) pharmacy students regarding clinical pharmacy specialization. A survey was conducted using questionnaire instrument design which consists of three sections. The survey was distributed among University of Science Malaysia's (USM) pharmacy students from first year students to final year students in order to measure their knowledge and perception regarding clinical pharmacy specialization. Of 200 distributed surveys, 188 (94%) were returned. From the survey analyzed, the respondents were 52.1% (n=98) from first year students, 21.8% (n=41) from third year students, and 26.1% (n=49) from final year students. Overall, 64.4% (n=121) of USM's pharmacy students preferred clinical pharmacy as their division field. USM's pharmacy students' knowledge level was in intermediate zone (neutral) however improvement steps able to overcome this issue. Moreover, the respondents showed positive perception regarding clinical pharmacy specialization as 76.6% (n=144) of them aware that Malaysia is toward clinical pharmacy specialization. As a conclusion, USM's pharmacy students have positive perception towards clinical pharmacy specialization and their level of knowledge can be enriched as these students have high determination for their profession in the future. The positive opinion may be able to change current implementation for development purpose.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Nowadays, Malaysia had reached lots of achievement and huge development in order to stand still and move step by step further to become one of the best countries among other countries which are already strong and secured in all aspects. One of the important aspects is educational level. Malaysia also on the right tracks to consolidate the performance of students, undergraduate students and also to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of learning process toward the ability for them to utilize the knowledge and skills in their carrier in the future. Clinical pharmacy is a branch of pharmacy field which required experiential training, skill, knowledge and ability to be excellent communicator in order to perform well not just for him or herself but the most important is to distribute all the criteria towards the society.(Amy E. Broeseker, PharmD & Mary R. Monk-Tutor, PhD, 2003)

Clinical pharmacy is defined by American College of Clinical Pharmacy as health science discipline which pharmacist provide patient care that optimize medication therapy and promote Quality of Life (QoL).(American College of Clinical Pharmacy, n.d) Principles of clinical pharmacy also involve caring values, knowledge, experience