

Hospital Pharmacy Attachment: A Structured Experiential Training For Future Pharmacists

From December 5th 2022 to January 11th 2023, a Hospital Pharmacy Attachment (HPA) was conducted at the Pharmacy Department of Hospital Al Sultan Abdullah, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). HPA was a structured experiential training conducted over a time frame of 10 working days, offered in the final year of the Bachelor of Pharmacy programme. HPA is a compulsory training aimed at providing an overview and introduction to pharmacy units, exposing students to the organisational structure, the pharmacist's role, its governing guidelines, and standard operating procedures. The attachment involved training at six main pharmacy units: the in-patient, out-patient, drug information centre, hospital pharmacy administration and store management, chemotherapy drug reconstitution, and total parenteral nutrition.

These future pharmacists were given the opportunity to practise their skills in dispensing medication, providing medication counselling, and answering drug queries under the supervision of a hospital pharmacist's preceptor. Generally, from a spectator's point of view, this exposure allowed students to apply their knowledge from a theoretical perspective to a real-based scenario. For instance, students gained an idea of how to resolve the issue that emerged based on their exposure to the Out-patient Pharmacy Department, such as initiating medication safety and ensuring effective medication distribution operations at the In-patient Pharmacy Department.



Additionally, a case scenario based on each pharmacy department was assigned to students for a small group discussion under the supervision of a lecturer. From this activity, students were encouraged to provide evidence-based references in justifying the decisions and actions taken to resolve pharmaceutical care issues in the given case. Upon completing the attachment, students reflected on their experiences and expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to do the HPA.

The objectives of HPA have been successfully achieved. Additionally, it is also hoped that the students will value this precious experience and put their newly acquired knowledge to use in the future. Nevertheless, the duration of HPA can be considered to be extended to ensure that future pharmacists can gain more experience and training in pharmacy practice.

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