Home Infusion

Description of Rotation:

Home Infusion pharmacy practice allows pharmacists to use their training and skill to help treat patients’ medical conditions from their own home. Disease states that once required medication to be administered in a hospital or clinic setting can now be given from home. The Home Infusion Rotation is designed to give the student experience in the different infusion drug delivery methods and appropriate selection. The student will participate in assessment, monitoring and laboratory review, as well as make recommendations on therapy dosage changes or additional therapies as observed by patient response to ensure the best possible outcome for the patient.

Goals of Rotation:

1. Understand the patient health care needs
2. Utilize evidence based medicine
3. Enhance and reinforce didactic coursework
4. Develop interpersonal communication skills
5. Adopt and practice ethics and integrity for site and career
6. Explain monitoring parameters given the disease state, treatment regimen, and delivery method.
7. Develop clinical skills necessary to design, implement and monitor rational, safe, effective, and individualized pharmaceutical care plans.
8. Understand and utilize sterile products and aseptic admixture technique.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this rotation student should be able to:

1. Succeed in meeting the treatment goal of home infusion pharmacy, which is to provide quality care in a safe environment so that patients can maintain their independent lifestyles.
2. Prepare and dispense medications according to existing standards of practice and policies and procedures.
3. Effectively communicate with healthcare professionals and make recommendations for therapy dosage changes or additional therapies.
4. Understand types of IV access and appropriate care for IV access.
5. Determine appropriate selection of drug delivery system based on patient demographics, financial considerations, and clinical needs.
6. Provide ongoing patient monitoring and reassessment activities to continually assess for response to treatment, drug allergies, inappropriate drug use, drug interactions, adverse reactions and patient adherence.
7. Ensure safe and proper administration of infusion drugs
8. Provide patient education

Activities:

1. Daily entering, preparation, and dispensing of IV medications and supplies
2. Overview of USP 797 / Clean Room requirements
3. Discuss to clinical staff appropriate management of a specific disease requiring IV therapy
4. Case reports
5. Research drug information question
6. Education
   a. Patients
   b. Medical Staff
   c. Caregivers
7. Medication Safety
   a. Adverse drug events
   b. Food-drug interactions
   c. Drug-drug interactions
   d. Inappropriate drug use

Common disease states encountered:

1. Infectious diseases
2. Cancer
3. Pain management
4. Dehydration
5. Gastrointestinal diseases
   a. Chron’s Disease
   b. Ulcerative Colitis
   c. Irritable Bowel Syndrome
6. Hemophilia
7. Immune deficiencies
8. Multiple sclerosis
9. Rheumatoid Arthritis

Required Readings:

National Home Infusion Association website: www.nhia.org
Potential longitudinal activities to accomplish at site:

1. Identify and collect appropriate drug-related monitoring parameters for each assigned patient
2. Maintain an adequate patient data base for each assigned patient
3. Identify and prioritize drug-related problems for each assigned patient
4. Assess the appropriateness of each assigned patient’s drug therapy
5. Construct a detailed pharmacotherapeutic plan for each assigned patient
6. Present all patient data in a concise and meaningful fashion
7. Provides evidence-based regimens and monitoring plans for each patient
8. Obtain and write-up a patient medication history
9. Provide medication information to a unique cultural and socioeconomic diverse patient
10. Provide a recommendation and counseling on an OTC product
11. Counsel a patient on their medications
12. Provide a verbal therapeutic plan recommendation to another health-care professional
13. Perform medication reconciliation for patients
14. Interpret diagnostic tests results for patient/caregiver/or preceptor
15. Take a patient’s blood pressure
16. Take a patient’s pulse
17. Assess a patient’s peripheral edema
18. Take a patient’s respiratory rate
19. Assess a patient’s temperature
20. Provide an optimal pain management or palliative care plan for a patient
21. Observe a Health Care professional perform a full physical examination and assess results
22. Make a warfarin dosage adjustment based on patient parameters
23. Recommend empiric antibiotic therapy
24. Recommend antibiotic therapy based upon a culture and sensitivity
25. Assess the significance of a drug-drug interaction
26. Adjust a drug dose in a patient with renal insufficiency
27. Determine monitoring parameters for a patient being treated for an infectious disease
28. Assist in explaining to a patient or caregiver their health-insurance options
29. Prepare a written pharmacokinetic consultation
30. Prepare a handout for case presentation
31. Prepare an article for a newsletter or publication
32. Prepare a patient education sheet
33. Prepare a written drug information response in a practice setting
34. Provide an education presentation to pharmacists
35. Provide an education presentation to other health care professionals
36. Lead a Journal Club discussion
37. Participate in a Patient/Medication Safety Review or error reduction program
38. Develop a community-based educational initiative
39. Discuss or Implement, evaluate, and obtain reimbursement for MTM services
40. Participate in a discussion of a pharmacist role in ethical issues related to any of the following topics: end of life care, professional behavior, clinical research, and pharmacy current event/hot button issue