Medication Safety

Description of Rotation:

The medication safety rotation is designed to give the student a broad perspective of the process of managing medication safety in the health care system. The student will participate in medication use reviews, medication errors, and adverse event reports. An emphasis will be made on identifying and implementing risk reduction strategies.

Goals of Rotation:

1. Utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills to identify, resolve and prevent drug related problems in the health care setting.
2. Develop clinical skills necessary to design, implement and monitor rational, safe, effective, and individualized pharmaceutical care plans.
3. Demonstrate motivation to engage in self-directed learning and a desire to contribute to promotion of quality patient care and optimal drug therapy outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the rotation the student should be able to:

1. Develop strategies to improve the health care system’s monitoring and reporting of adverse events.
2. Effectively communicate with other healthcare professionals in order to improve the healthcare system’s medication use process policy and procedures.
3. Ensure appropriate, safe, and correct preparation and dispensing of medications.
5. Document all recommendations and interventions.
6. Participate in identifying and implementing medication safety best practices within the pharmacy and throughout the healthcare system.
7. Prepare materials for and attend hospital medication safety related meetings

Activities

1. Monitor patient outcomes
2. Medication safety
   a. Adverse drug events
   b. Food-drug interactions
   c. Drug-drug interactions
   d. Inappropriate drug use
3. Review of medical records
4. Medication reconciliation
5. Formulary management
6. Policy and procedure meetings
7. Data collection

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 verbal therapeutic plan recommendation to another health-care professional
11. Perform medication reconciliation for patients
12. Interpret diagnostic tests results for patient/caregiver/or preceptor
13. Provide an optimal pain management or palliative care plan for a patient
14. Make a warfarin dosage adjustment based on patient parameters
15. Recommend empiric antibiotic therapy
16. Recommend antibiotic therapy based upon a culture and sensitivity
17. Assess the significance of a drug-drug interaction
18. Adjust a drug dose in a patient with renal insufficiency
19. Determine monitoring parameters for a patient being treated for an infectious disease
20. Assist in explaining to a patient or caregiver their health-insurance options
21. Prepare a written pharmacokinetic consultation
22. Prepare a handout for case presentation
23. Prepare an article for a newsletter or publication
24. Prepare a patient education sheet
25. Prepare a written drug information response in a practice setting
26. Provide an education presentation to pharmacists
27. Provide an education presentation to other health care professionals
28. Lead a Journal Club discussion
29. Participate in a Patient/Medication Safety Review or error reduction program
30. Develop a community-based educational initiative
31. Discuss or Implement, evaluate, and obtain reimbursement for MTM services
32. 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

Required Readings: