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Integrating a Pharmacist Skills Summit into a Pharmacotherapy Laboratory Course

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Audience Choice Award Honorable Mention

Abstract

Pharmacy students often expand their patient care skills within a pharmacy laboratory curriculum. The pharmacy skills laboratory at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is housed within four semesters of the pharmacotherapy course sequence. During these four semesters, second and third-year pharmacy students develop their patient care skills while simultaneously applying clinical knowledge learned throughout their curriculum. In addition, students work in teams during the laboratory sequence with hopes to improve communication, accountability, and other essential teamwork skills. Though students get to practice these skills during their skills laboratory sequence, there are often areas that require more refined teaching and practice. Additionally, our students had several skills-based labs transitioned to remote development over the past two years which impacted their delivery of skills for in-person patient care. Skill areas were identified and taught in a pharmacist skills summit (marketed as an Rx Skills Summit) prior to the beginning of each semester in the 2021-2022 school year. Activities within the summit included teambuilding activities, situational-judgment scenarios, how to work up a patient case, patient interview skills, SOAP note documentation, and giving or receiving effective feedback. The impact of this intervention was assessed through student survey data evaluating student perceptions of the Rx Skills Summit activity in both the fall and spring semesters. Assessment areas of interest included evaluation of current patient skill ability, the overall sentiment of the Rx Skills Summit activities, and recommendations for changes to be made for future Summit programming.

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