

# ADVANCED CLINICAL PHARMACY EXPOSURE AT THE PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY WARD

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## INTRODUCTION

The postgraduate doctorate in pharmacy course is offered by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta in collaboration with the University of Illinois, Chicago. Learning activities within the course include taught modules, experiential clinical rotations and a dissertation.

## AIM

To develop a 6 week experiential programme providing a comprehensive understanding of medication use process and exposure to an interdisciplinary approach operating within a Paediatric Oncology Ward.

## METHOD

The student is briefed by the clinical pharmacist at the Paediatric Oncology Ward regarding the clinical setting and activities. The student attends to consultant-led ward rounds, day cases and out-patient clinics; actively participates in weekly interdisciplinary meetings regarding patient management; resolves medicine information queries put forward by the healthcare professionals; provides patient/parent medication counselling; undertakes a critical appraisal of a published paper and identifies treatment protocols or guidelines requiring update.

## RESULTS

Reflections by the student on the activities undertaken are discussed with the preceptor during a 2- hour weekly session.

- Pharmacy Patient Profiles documenting identified pharmaceutical care issues are updated for each patient.
- Clinical cases and medicine information queries are discussed in detail with the preceptor. At the end of the placement, 2 clinical cases are presented. The preceptor assesses the student's ability to clearly present and discuss the case in relation to evidence based medicine.
- Medication Discharge Guides are compiled for patients requiring medication counselling on discharge.
- A scientific paper is chosen by the preceptor and a critical appraisal is carried out by the student.
- Guidelines and treatment protocols requiring update are reviewed and updated.

During the placement, the student completes a self-evaluation form outlining strengths, weaknesses and expectations at the start of the placement, midpoint and at the end of the placement.

## CONCLUSION

Through this experiential doctorate of pharmacy rotation, students are exposed to a sensitive clinical pharmacy scenario such as the Paediatric Oncology Ward. The students are given the opportunity to develop managerial, leadership, documentation, critical thinking skills required to sustain clinical discussions with other stakeholders within a healthcare system.