

Pharmacy Experiential Training During COVID-19: A STORY OF INSPIRATION

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Abstract

Background: As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, pharmacy experiential training shifted dramatically, including healthcare facilities-oriented training (Law et al., 2021). Curriculum development committee (CDC) at Faculty of Pharmacy at Libyan International Medical University (LIMU) put a proposal to facilitate virtual case discussions, and to create teaching materials that could be utilized for virtual clinical rotations during Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE). **Aim:** This study aimed to report the virtual APPE training experience at LIMU. **Method:** CDC members and preceptors at Faculty of Pharmacy met regularly to develop training strategy that covers intended APPE skills and competencies. Cases were collected from Benghazi hospitals with all filed investigations and management information. Cases from different departments were allocated into relevant APPE clinical rotations. ****Manuals and specifications were created for each rotation; preceptor guide and reference guidelines were developed for each case; and case-based discussion session (CBDS) guide and evaluation forms were announced to students. Accordingly, cases were implemented in APPE training as CBDS, via MOODLE. During CBDS, each student shares his/her knowledge and information with colleagues and preceptor through answering the guiding questions that were structured in the patient data care form to cover six aspects including; problem identification, desired outcome, therapeutic alternatives, optimal plan, outcome evaluation, and patient education. At the end of the CBDS, the preceptor summarises the discussion and evaluate the students using a predesigned evaluation form noting that oral feedback is provided by all parties at the end of the session. Results:** Motivation, performance and outcomes gained by students during the APPE virtual training experience reflect its success. **Conclusion:** Adaptability of APPE virtual training package by LIMU Faculty of Pharmacy, is well established in term of available scenario creation and simulation training. Next step is to include these virtual cases -collected from real-life situation- within Mydispense in its new version.

Keywords: APPE, case-based discussion session, Virtual training.

**Internal medicine, Oncology and haematology, Ambulatory care, Intensive care unit and Cardiac care unit, Infectious diseases, Surgery, Nephrology, Dermatology, Paediatrics, and electives which include Psychiatry or Gynaecology.

References:

Law, E., Scott, M., Moon, Y., Lee, et al. (2021). Adapting pharmacy experiential education during COVID-19: Innovating remote preceptor resources, tools, and patient care delivery beyond virtual meetings. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, 78(18), pp.1732-1738.