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Standards for Traditional Dispensing Internships

Background

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy requires 800 internship hours in "traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing nature" due to concern that students might otherwise be unable to fill prescriptions in community pharmacies or orders in a hospital pharmacy. Minnesota does not issue "categorical" licenses that allow the licensees to practice in only certain settings. The Board has to assume that anyone licensed as a pharmacist may end up working in a traditional practice setting, regardless of their career plans.

Traditional Compounding, Patient Counseling and Dispensing Definition

Traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing refers to the compounding and dispensing activities that take place in community and hospital pharmacies. These include interpretation of prescriptions and orders, data entry, product selection, counting or measuring of drug products, extemporaneous compounding, filling and labeling of prescription containers, and certification of prescriptions. Internship experiences in certain specialty pharmacies (such as those specializing long-term care facilities and home infusion) may also count towards the traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing requirement provided that the focus is on the activities listed in the previous sentence.

Drug utilization review, patient counseling, and other clinical activities that are incident to the dispensing process are also included. However, internship experiences that focus on these activities without a significant dispensing or compounding component will not count towards the 800 hours in traditional compounding, patient counseling, and dispensing nature requirement.

Standard

Internship experiences will meet the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a "traditional compounding, patient counseling, and dispensing nature" provided that they focus on one or more of the following sections:

- **1.00.00 PRESCRIPTION PROCESSING.** Note that for Section 1.05.00, credit will be granted only if the intern is directly involved in the acquisition, distribution, preparation, and dispensing of investigational drugs.
- **2.00.00 PRESCRIPTION COMPOUNDING AND CALCULATIONS.** Note that internship experiences focusing primarily on pharmacokinetic calculations, interpretations, and recommendations will not count towards the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a "traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing nature."
- **3.00.00 OTC DRUGS, CHEMICALS, POISONS, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.** Note that internship experiences that focus primarily on toxicology and provision of poison information will not count towards the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a "traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing nature."

- **4.00.00 PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION AND PATIENT CARE.** Note that internship experiences that focus primarily on responding to drug information requests will not count towards the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a "traditional compounding, patient counseling, and dispensing nature." Nor will those that focus primarily on patient counseling, medication therapy management, or provision of pharmaceutical care - unless a significant portion of the experience involves traditional dispensing activities such as interpretation of prescriptions and orders, data entry, product selection, counting or measuring of drug products, extemporaneous compounding, filling and labeling of prescription containers, and certification of prescriptions.
- **7.00.00 PHARMACY MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.** Note that internship experiences that focus on the management of community, hospital, long-term care pharmacy, and home infusion pharmacy dispensing and compounding areas will count towards the requirement. Other internship experiences focused on management will not count. (For example, a rotation at the administrative offices of a pharmacy benefits manager). r.
- **8.00.00 HOSPITAL PHARMACY PRACTICE.**

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