

## MINNESOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY

### Standards for Traditional Dispensing Internships

1. **Background** - the Board decided to require 800 hours of internship of a "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.
2. **Definition of "traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing"**. This term 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 in 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 but that do not have a significant dispensing or compounding component will not be counted towards the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a "traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing nature".

**Standards.** 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 of the 2003 Internship Competency Manual (except as noted):

- a. **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.
- b. **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".

- c. **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”.
- d. **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.
- e. **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).
- f. **8.00.00 HOSPITAL PHARMACY PRACTICE.**

Other sections of the Internship Competency Manual can and, in many cases, should be addressed with students during “traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing” experiences. However, they are not the focus of such experiences. For example, the law and ethics section of the Manual should be addressed at many practice sites, but an internship experience served at the Board of Pharmacy office would not count towards the requirement that 800 hours of internship be of a “traditional compounding, patient counseling and dispensing nature”.