

Acute Care Preceptors Conference
University of California San Diego
Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
April 20, 2010

Meeting Notes

Best Practices in Acute Care Medicine at Sharp Healthcare: Dr. Pratima Patel shared her precepting strategies and philosophy to the group. Her Powerpoint presentation, which generated a lively and interactive discussion afterwards, is available on our website (<http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/experiential.shtml>).

The issue of student professionalism was discussed at length. Many preceptors find that the transition from pharmacy student to pharmacy professional is sometimes a long hard-fought transition for the students. They tend to bring their classroom habits with them into the professional environment, e.g., lateness and attendance. In an attempt to prevent some of this, Dr. Grant Lum, Sharp Healthcare, has a preparatory talk with each student at the beginning of each rotation. He clearly outlines expectations regarding professionalism and respect for his preceptors. Although sometimes the preceptors themselves role-model the unprofessional behavior which in turn communicates to the student that the behavior is okay and continues.

Dr. Patel utilizes a formal contract between preceptor and student at the beginning and midpoint of each rotation. The contract emphasizes commitment to the code of conduct expected during the rotation; students invariably improve on each item brought to their attention. Also, in the interest of time management and repetition avoidance, Dr. Patel gives each orientation handouts to each student & then follows up with questions about each handout to ensure reading compliance.

Dr. Colbert asked the group in what areas should the students improve to come better prepared for their rotations. Responses are as follows: literature review; brand/generic and dosing; professionalism transition from classroom to hospital/community; using the “I didn’t learn that in class” excuse versus taking accountability for self-learning; student expectations that the preceptor will be there just for them and nothing else; and the “I’m paying for this” sense of entitlement.

Another question posed was, “How do you help students ‘get it’?” Dr. Patel does not hesitate to refuse turned-in work, if necessary. After she has mirrored and outlined expectations, she instructs the student to improve and redo their own work by troubleshooting and evaluating it themselves. Her mid-terms & finals are similar to board exams, to help them prepare.

Dr. Patel does have high expectations and standards. She does understand that the students “suffer” through her rotations. But she also knows that she’s helping them by doing so. Quite often after their rotations, students will tell her they are grateful for everything they learned and that they have become better pharmacists because of her.

SPPS 209 Pharmacoeconomics: Cancelled.