Perceptions of pharmacy students involved in preventative health and wellness events at the University of British Columbia

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INTRODUCTION

• As frontline healthcare providers, pharmacists have integral roles to play in public health promotion.
• Although limited, available data suggests pharmacy students are enthusiastic toward the pharmacists role in health promotion however, they may lack confidence in their abilities, particularly with regards to immunization.1,2
• Pharmacy students may have limited exposure and opportunities to engage in health promotion activities through their academic curriculum.
• The Pharmacists Clinic (PC) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences is a pharmacist-led patient care clinic. Each year, the PC engages UBC pharmacy students in annual influenza immunization clinics and a Travelling Health Fair. Services are available to all UBC employees.3

OBJECTIVES

To assess pharmacy student perceptions of involvement in preventative health and wellness initiatives.

METHODS

• Under licensed pharmacist supervision, volunteer pharmacy students delivered heart health, bone health, diabetes awareness events and influenza immunization clinics for UBC employees between 2014-2016.
• Students attended a 1 hour, group training session by a licensed pharmacist prior to participating in 4 hours of service delivery. (Student immunizers had previously obtained injection certification).
• Post-event completion, anonymous, electronic surveys were emailed to all student participants.
• Surveys were developed by UBC pharmacy faculty and gathered information on student demographics, perceptions of preparedness for health promotion activities and knowledge and skill development as a result of participation.
• Data analysis was by descriptive statistics.

RESULTS

• 147 surveys sent with a 40.8% completion rate.
• Majority of participants in 3rd and 4th year pharmacy.
• 100% of respondents perceived an improvement in skill and knowledge development in 1 or more areas of:
  ✓ Information gathering
  ✓ Documentation
  ✓ Patient interaction and education
  ✓ Physical assessment/data gathering

CONCLUSIONS

• Senior pharmacy students expressed positive attitudes toward involvement in health promotion activities and experienced a self-perceived increase in knowledge, skills and confidence over a brief time period.
• Students expressed a strong desire for further opportunities to engage with real patients in health promotion activities throughout their training.
• Early exposure to health promotion activities may accelerate and enhance clinical abilities of pharmacy students while preparing them for emerging pharmacist roles.

REFERENCES

3UBC Travelling Health Fair http://www.hr.ubc.ca/wellbeing-benefits/living-well/physical-wellbeing/travelling-health-fair/

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