

A Curriculum for Implementing Pharmacogenomics Clinics in Hospitals

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Abstract

Introduction

One of the largest challenges facing the implementation of new pharmacogenomics programs includes the knowledge gap. There are currently a number of educational pharmacogenomics training/certificate courses offered from a variety of organizations in attempt to close this gap, however, each program varies by a number of different factors (cost, CE credit offered, etc). Limited literature is focused specifically on the training associated with implementation of a pharmacogenomics clinic. A curriculum and associated training focused specific to the implementation of the clinic will meet the needs of closing the knowledge gap while preparing pharmacists for real clinic work.

Methods

The creation of the curriculum and full training occurred in three stages. The first stage of planning the curriculum included an assessment of the knowledge gap. Stage two of the planning included assessing the information gathered from the pharmacist discussions and creating the initial outline. The different themes were easily separated into different learning units. Specific topics were defined within each unit to develop the curriculum. Once the curriculum outline was developed, goals and objectives were created for each unit. Publicly available educational videos, lectures, and resources were selected and compiled for each unit.

Outcomes

Current pharmacist understanding of pharmacogenomics was assessed to identify any knowledge gaps. The level of education included in the training is geared towards those with little to no basic pharmacogenomics education. The training builds into more detailed clinical knowledge further into the training as requested by many pharmacists.

Discussion

The curriculum was designed to be utilized at St. Louis Children's Hospital. However, the clinic-specific information is grouped together in one full unit, making it easy to adjust for distinctive clinics in the case it is to be used elsewhere. The curriculum was created with all publicly available education materials so it will always be free and easy to share all or parts of the training with other colleagues. Pharmacists will have detailed background pharmacogenomics knowledge upon completion of the training, with clinical application pearls in the back of their mind to put to use in the real clinic setting. This curriculum and associated training will directly impact the quality of patient care delivered at the St. Louis Children's Hospital Pharmacogenomics Clinic and possibly patients at future clinics as well. Pharmacists upon completion of the course will close their knowledge gap and have a much better understanding of general background pharmacogenomics knowledge.