

Rotational Pharmacist Programme

In 2008 the Trust approved a three year investment strategy to improve clinical pharmacy services across the Trust. This commitment has allowed us to develop existing services and expand into new clinical areas.

With an increasing emphasis on cost effective prescribing, and following the publication of several NPSA alerts relating to drug safety, a strong clinical pharmacy presence on the ward ensures the safe and appropriate use of medication, as well as helping patients to receive the best possible care.

Our rotational pharmacists are allocated designated wards on a rotational basis, and are trained and supported to provide a clinical service including medication history taking, drug chart review, producing and utilising pharmaceutical care plans, preparing patients for discharge and providing clinical information for ward staff. Rotational pharmacists are encouraged to complete a clinical diploma that will complement by helping pharmacists develop the skills and attitudes needed to be a successful clinical pharmacist.

The rotation is support by a team of specialist pharmacists, who also provide a clinical service to the wards, as well as producing guidelines, budget reports, reviewing drug safety procedures and training other members of the multidisciplinary team. Wards with a One Stop Dispensing service (the utilisation of patients' own medication and labelling all medication ready for discharge) are additionally supported by a clinical technician who may help with drug history taking, medicines reconciliation and ordering.

The three year rotational programme currently consists of fourteen rotations each lasting eleven weeks. These rotations are across the Trust and are designed to provide junior pharmacists with the opportunity to gain invaluable experience of a wide range of clinical specialities. The current rotation consists of the following rotations:

- ◆ Cancer Services
- ◆ Cardiology
- ◆ Cardiothoracic Surgery
- ◆ Critical Care
- ◆ Diabetes & Endocrinology
- ◆ Emergency Medicine
- ◆ Gastroenterology & Respiratory Medicine
- ◆ General Surgery
- ◆ Haematology
- ◆ Neurosciences
- ◆ Orthopaedics
- ◆ Paediatrics including Paediatric Oncology
- ◆ Renal Medicine
- ◆ Women's Services

During each rotation you spend the majority of your time directly involved in clinical activities, with the rest allocated to other areas of the department, including dispensaries, production services, medicines information, clinical trials, discharge team and the anticoagulant clinics.

To support junior pharmacists in the transition to hospital pharmacy practice, an extensive induction is provided. This includes problem-based training in:

- ◆ Acute clinical emergencies
- ◆ ADRs
- ◆ Antimicrobials & infection control
- ◆ Chemotherapy issues
- ◆ Clinical ward skills
- ◆ Electrolytes disturbances
- ◆ Emergency duty scenarios
- ◆ Formulary, new and unlicensed medications
- ◆ Intensive care
- ◆ Interactions
- ◆ Interpreting tests results
- ◆ Medicine reconciliation
- ◆ Paediatric pharmacy
- ◆ Pharmaceutical care plans
- ◆ Production issues
- ◆ TDM
- ◆ TPN

Extended-hours Service

In October 2009 the Pharmacy Directorate implemented the extended-hours service to support the safe use of medications in the Trust throughout the week. In order to reflect the positive impact the clinical pharmacy team has on patient care, there is now a pharmacist based on the Emergency Assessment Unit seven days a week until late evening. The service is delivered by the rotational pharmacists who actively participate in post-take ward rounds, patient clerking and medicine reconciliation activities. This provides them with the valuable learning opportunities that only come from working closely with the multi-professional clinical team in an acute clinical setting.