

HQIP Case study:

Clinical audit work experience placements for university students

This submission demonstrates:

- Widening of participation in clinical audit by partnering with Aston University to develop student placements.
- Participation of students in clinical audit projects

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Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust

www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk

Summary

One of our Trust's core values is the development of partnership working and as part of this ethos we have worked to develop and pilot work experience placements in the clinical audit team for pharmacy students at Aston University. These placements involve students in a range of audit activities with clearly identified learning outcomes including:

- Data analysis and reporting
- Preparing poster presentations
- Preparing overviews of the key findings and recommendations from national clinical audit reports for review by the Trust's Clinical Effectiveness Committee

This has been a good opportunity for students to gain work-based experience in a large community provider Trust. Developing the placements has enabled us to further develop partnership working with our local university and raise the profile of the Trust and importance of audit with our pharmacists of the future.

The pilot evaluated well in terms of utility for the Trust and in student feedback on their experience. We are developing further placements for students during the summer holidays.

Background

We wanted to find an opportunity to develop voluntary work experience placements within our clinical audit team and worked in partnership with our local university to develop suitable placements for 2nd or 3rd year pharmacy students.

Aims

- To develop and pilot work experience placements for suitably experienced university students.
- To successfully engage students in the work of the clinical audit team and provide a positive learning experience.
- To support the implementation of the Trust's clinical audit programme.

Objectives

Our objectives were to:

- Create suitable work experience opportunities
- Work in partnership with Aston Pharmacy School to agree suitable learning outcomes.
- Offer well organised placements delivered in accordance with the Trust's Work Experience Policy.
- Evaluate the pilot and identify future opportunities.

Approach

We contacted the Trust's widening participation manager to ask if we could take this project forward.

Aston University Pharmacy School expressed an interest in the pilot and we met with their representative to consider the best dates for placements, suitable projects and what would need to be in place from a governance perspective.

We developed advertisements for the placements making clear what the project would involve, the benefits for the students and intended learning outcomes.

Aston's pre-registration tutor co-ordinated expressions of interest and we reviewed applications before agreeing to offer places to two students.

We had a second meeting with the University and our work experience coordinator to make sure everything that needed to be in place was in place in advance of students arriving.

The first student placements were offered over a 2-3 week period and evaluated.

Challenges

- Checking everything in place that needed to be before the students started as required as part of the Work Experience Policy.
- Designing placements which would give students a project they could deliver within the timeframe with enough variety and challenge to be interesting and which would meet the learning objectives.
- Ensuring arrangements were in place in advance to ensure students have appropriate support and induction, desk space and appropriately restricted access to the information they would need to work on.

Outcomes

- Data analysis and reports produced for two clinical record keeping audits.
- Poster presentations completed which were displayed at the Trust's Clinical Effectiveness Day April 2014.
- Summaries of the SSNAP and National Diabetes Audit key recommendations produced and reviewed by the Trust's Clinical Effectiveness Committee.

Conclusion

In the post placement evaluation, positive feedback was received in relation to:

- The difficulty of the audit project; the student felt it was at an appropriate level of complexity.
- Learning and understanding; the student enjoyed the placement and felt they gained some insight into the national and local audit agendas.

Additional information would have been liked regarding the wider work of the organisation and opportunities to support this will be considered for future placements.

We are offering a further three placements during the summer holidays to other students on the same course.

Quotes

"This has been a great opportunity for our students, as can be seen by the level of interest in response to the offer of placements during the summer."

Fiona Lacey, Aston University.

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