**FACULTY OF PHARMACY**

**Community Engagement Programme (CEP)**

**REPORT - 2016**

The Community Engagement Programme (CEP) is a compulsory credit bearing module (forms a compulsory component of the Pharmacy Practice 4 course). This programme is based on community engagement and service-learning principles and forms part of the Pharmacy Practice course for final year students. This allows the students to participate in an organized service learning activity (experiential learning) that meets identified community needs and allows the students to reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of the module content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, exposure to the real world and real patients, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

1. **CEP home visits (29 February, 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 March)**

The Community Engagement Programme requires the students to assess patients (interview and determine all health care needs) with chronic diseases in their homes. The students worked in groups of about 5 - 6 members.

**Purpose of the CEP home visit**

* To expose the learner to the social context of the practice of pharmacy in South Africa and to the effect of socio-economic factors on the patient’s health and their pharmacotherapy.
* To enable learners to develop the ability to see health and illness from the perspective of the patient.
* To provide an opportunity for the learner to identify specific pharmacotherapeutic problems and develop Pharmaceutical Care plans for the resolution of the problems.
* To provide an opportunity for the learner to use their communication and counseling skills.

During the assessment of a patient a structured questionnaire were used. The students were required to **identify all the health care needs and offer advice regarding the management of the chronic diseases** e.g. lifestyle changes, adherence to medicines, adverse medicine reactions and the importance of regular monitoring by health care professionals. They were also required to answer questions asked by the patients. The students identified any medicine related problems and suggested solutions on how to eliminate or manage these. A facilitator accompanied each group at all times during the home visit to assist the students.

Patient confidentiality was respected at all times. A confidentiality agreement was signed by all the students at the beginning of the CEP course.

The patients interviewed are dependent on public sector health care facilities and limited time are spend on health education and promotion and the understanding of their chronic condition/s (patient feedback and reflection). The feedback received from the patients after the home visit were very positive. They appreciated the visit and informed the students that they understand their chronic condition for the first time.

1. Health Education and Promotion (11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 April)

The **health education and promotion** component of the course took place at **St Mary’s Development Care Centre (DCC).** The centre focusses on the development needs of children (grades 1 – 12) and their families. The children are identified as being at risk by schools and community networks.

**Topics were**:

* Why do we use medicine?
* How do medicines work?
* What skin conditions are we likely to get?
* Precautions with medicines
* Diabetes in my family
* Worm infestation
* Asthma
* A family member with hypertension
* How to deal with epilepsy?
* A family member with joint pain – arthritis
* Prevent diarrhea
* Prevent constipation
* How to protect yourself and your family from getting Tuberculosis
* Foot care for a diabetic family member.

The pharmacy students were encouraged to engage with the children to create a learning environment while having fun. Positive feedback was received from the staff and leaners at St Mary’s DCC and a request was made that we return in 2017.

Compiled by Lynnette van Dyk