

PROVIDING VACCINATION PRACTICAL TRAINING IN UNDERGRADUATE PHARMACY EDUCATION

Francesca Wirth, Lilian M. Azzopardi

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

email: francesca.wirth@um.edu.mt

INTRODUCTION

The International Pharmaceutical Federation recognised that incorporating vaccination qualifications into pharmacist workforce education supports the participation of pharmacists in the delivery of vaccines as a standard part of practice.¹

Techniques in vaccination administration have been included in the clinical skills laboratory at the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta for the past 10 years. Since academic year 2021-22, the practical training was evolved to reflect a competence-based learning exercise.

AIM

To develop vaccination training to certify achievement of practical skills

METHOD

- The training was developed by assessing the knowledge and practical skills that are required to confirm pharmacist competence in vaccination services.
 - Literature was identified and practical sessions were developed to cover the identified learning outcomes.
 - Discussions were held with the National Immunisation Service and the Primary Care Service to establish opportunities for students to undertake hands-on patient sessions in these settings.

RESULTS

- The vaccination training is mandatory and consists of three parts.
- In the first part, 4 practical sessions, each of 2 hours duration, are held in the clinical skills laboratory.
- In the second part, 3 clinical observation and practice sessions, each of 3 hours duration, are conducted within the National Immunisation Service and Primary Care Service.
- The third part involves completion of a relevant first aid course.
- Knowledge, skills and competences acquired in the practical training are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Learning outcomes of the developed vaccination training programme

Training component	Knowledge, skills and competences
Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and reconstitution of vaccines from vials and ampoules • Interpretation and preparation of labels • Safe administration of vaccines via different routes, documentation post-administration, and management of post-vaccination reactions using <i>injection simulators</i>
Part 2	Safe administration of vaccines, documentation post-administration, and management of post-vaccination reactions in <i>actual patients</i>
Part 3	Theory and practice of basic first aid skills necessary for different emergencies

CONCLUSION

Upon successful completion of the first two parts, a Skills Checklist is issued. A Pharmacy-based Vaccination Delivery certificate is issued when part three is completed.

Reference

1. International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) vaccination reference guide: Knowledge and skills to support professional development and inform pharmacy education in vaccination. The Hague: FIP; 2022.