

# Medication Review: Who is the patient?

## Interdisciplinary learning for undergraduate students



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### Background

In clinical practice, health care professionals (HCP) cooperate closely. However, most HCPs' curricula lack scheduled training in interdisciplinary work.

### Purpose

To establish a practice where students from different health care educations cooperate in the assessment of a nursing home resident in order to provide a more holistic evaluation of health needs. The focus of the participating pharmacy student is medication review (MR).

### Methods and setting

Six different HCP educations at the University of Oslo (UiO) cooperated in this pilot project.

At the first meeting, the students were introduced to the intentions and the practical tasks they were expected to carry out through clinical practice at a nursing home.

- **Medicine: clinical examination**
- **Advanced geriatric nursing: assessment of auxiliary needs**
- **Pharmacy: medication review**
- **Odontology: oral health**
- **Psychology: cognitive and mental health**
- **Clinical nutrition: nutritional status**

At the nursing home, each group of students representing each of the HCP educations were responsible for assessing one resident. This was carried out in the resident's room, giving each student the opportunity to observe each other while interacting with the resident, and reflecting upon professional and ethical approach. Two tutors assisted the students. Each group had to write a synoptic report and present their findings for the staff and the lecturers the last day in practice. The students were asked to provide an immediate evaluation of the project after the last session.

Informed consent was provided from the participating residents.



Interdisciplinary work after assessing the resident

### Findings

The pharmacy students stated that the learning outcome by observing and interacting with the other HCP students was substantial, and agreed that this was valuable to understand the resident's needs when performing MR. Further, all HCP students learned a lot from each other, including evaluation of correct use of medication. The students also agreed that they got more confidence about their own role and a better understanding of the importance of a multi professional approach.

The pharmacy teachers got useful and practical insight that can be used to improve the undergraduate training, for instance in how to find relevant information in the patient record.

«The other students appreciated my views on drug related issues.»

«I didn't know that oral health was so important for the resident's drug use. I learned a lot from the other students, which I used in my medication review.»



Two pharmacy students sharing their experiences from the project

### Conclusion

The project has provided important experiences for all participating professions. In this context for pharmacy students, it seems important to understand the role and approaches of other HCPs' in order to better understand the context regarding MR as well as our own role as pharmacists. As the health care system becomes more specialized, interdisciplinary professional learning has to be included in all HCP curricula.

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