

Taylor Blackburn

Independent Study and Mentorship

Spiece 2A

Mentor Visit Assessment

Date: February 22, 2017

Subject: Touring the Hospital and Pharmacy

Assessment:

During the last week of February, I received the opportunity to tour the hospital floors and the inside of the pharmacy at the Baylor Scott & White hospital under the guidance of my mentor. As most of my previous mentor visits have largely been centered on the work that I am doing in ISM, such as original work, the Research Showcase, and the final product, it was refreshing to learn some of the basics of Ms. Tribuzi's job as the director of pharmacy.

We first looked at the hiring qualifications for new pharmacists and the evaluations for the current staff. This was beneficial to me as I know a few ideas with change in the interview and evaluation process once I graduate college, but I now have a better understanding of how to prepare myself for this. Being a pharmacist requires easy patient communication and an easy-going personality, but it also requires a hard-working passion for the field in order to continue advancing the field of medicine.

I was incredibly intrigued during the "tour" as I got to see a new side to the medical profession that I have not seen before. Most of my knowledge has come from documentaries or my personal research, so I was grateful to get the advice and information from a trained and practicing professional to give me the level of education I need to be successful in my future

endeavors in training to become a pharmacist. She explained almost everything that we came across, even information that did not directly apply to the field of pharmacy, but was still beneficial to know about the overall requirements of the medical field. For example, for pharmacy, I do not necessarily need to know how to insert catheters or the effect of the pigment during insertion that helps healthcare professionals see where the blockage is in the patient, but it does enhance my overall knowledge of the medical field. It also increases my ability to interpret information which can make me more open to learn new skills and process needed information faster.

It was amazing to see the integral role that a hospital pharmacy plays in helping the hospital become more efficient and generating more revenue for the hospital. Furthermore, the tubes of medication that are sent throughout the hospital are hand-prepared and checked by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This process defines the role of pharmacy and how without its staff, it would be impossible for the hospital to run effectively. Therefore, I want to study further into the roles that each person plays in a pharmacy and how different hospitals use different techniques to ensure that their hospital is as effective as it can be.

During my next mentor visit, I want to examine and develop some understanding of the math skills needed to be a successful pharmacist as I can apply this information to my upcoming pharmacology interview for the CTE center class. Ms. Tribuzi's advice would be vital in preparing for this class and ensuring that I put my best foot forward in order to further my education in this career that I have increasingly developed a passion for.

Mentor Notes

- When I first arrived, we discussed how the pharmacy needed to hire a new night pharmacist and the three different applicants and the skills that they needed to be considered for the job
 - Ms. Tribuzi said that she highly considered people with previous experience in a hospital pharmacy over those than just retail or fresh out of pharmacy school and if they know how to use the computer
 - Those that answer questions during the interview with specific examples and experiences that they've had normally are looked at more by the hiring staff.
 - She also looks with compatible personalities with the staff already there.
- Next, as it is the time of year for employee evaluations, so Ms. Tribuzi showed me what the employee evaluation forms looked like and what it means to go above and beyond in doing a job as a pharmacy technician and as a pharmacist.
 - Employees also need to take a test to assess the math skills needed to do their jobs well.
 - Every year, every health professional in the hospital needs to a seminar that reviews ethicality and the basic way to address a patient.
- Then, we toured the pharmacy; I saw the organization of the medications ordered from the most used drugs to being alphabetized.
 - There was a medication called Argatroban that the hospital gets for about \$800 a box.
 - A patient has to be qualified for the administration of this drug. It immediately helps the patient recover from blood clots and enhances their health.
 - We glanced at the compounding sterile room that would allow pharmacists to create specified drugs for specific patients.
 - The pharmacy tech in the room had to work under a hood and created an IV solution for a baby in the NICU. Therefore, the pharmacy technician had to take extra precaution that the room and all materials were clean to keep the baby safe and healthy.
 - I saw how once the medications were completed they were travelled through tubes that went to the pharmacist's "personal vending machine" that nurses could administer to their patients once they were double- checked to ensure safety.
- We went around the different levels of the hospital where I got to see the general patient floor and inside an empty room. I also saw the NICU, the ICU, and watched video footage of a previous cath lab, where they had to insert catheters in order to save the patient.
- I learned that even a small hospital has so many interconnected specialties and a closer staff that allows for better patient care.