



## INTRODUCTION

The activities undergraduate students are exposed to should equip them with transferrable skills which can be applied during daily practice as pharmacists in different settings.

The pharmaceuticals practical sessions which form part of the pharmacy programme, are a good opportunity to develop good laboratory practices in students.

## AIM

To develop a handbook for pharmaceuticals practicals for pharmacy students in the first and second year of studies

## METHOD

A handbook was developed for pharmaceuticals practical sessions. The introduction part of the handbook outlines good laboratory practices including use of appropriate safety gear, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), presenting results and good documentation practices. Students are presented with the instructions to follow during the respective practical and the scheme used for marking.

- Exposure to Quality System
- Following instructions
- Maintaining an organised working area
- Documentation practices
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving

Figure 1: Practical sessions outcomes and competences and skills developed

## RESULTS

Students follow two practical sessions in the first and second year of the undergraduate program and three sessions during their third year. Each session is 3 hours long.

Before attending practical sessions, students are required to read the SOPs and MSDS which are highlighted in the respective practical description. SOPs and MSDS are made available to students online and in printed format in the laboratory.

At the end of each practical, students have to clean the work area and glassware and separate any waste generated according to the type of waste.

Criteria used to assess students include whether the student was wearing the required safety garments, participation in practical work session, documentation practices, and the calculations and inferences reached by the student.

Skills and competences developed during practical sessions are presented in Figure 1.

## CONCLUSION

The developed practicals focus on developing competences in following quality systems, laboratory procedures, documentation and report writing.