

INTRODUCTION

- Pharmaceutical care (PC) is the identification, resolution and prevention of potential drug related problems.
- Development of PC practical skills is important to assure quality provision of care.
- Reorganization of pharmacy internship at the University of Tartu with focus on practicing of PC was implemented in 2017.

METHOD

- Study method: pre- and post pharmacy internship survey.
- Study sample: 5-th year pharmacy students who completed pharmacy internship in 2018 and 2019 (n=45).
- Survey instrument: 20-item adapted international survey instrument (1).
- Perception about PC skills (10 items), functions (5 items) and outcomes (5 items).
- 5-point Likert scale (1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree) was used for evaluation.
- Data analysis: Mann-Whitney U Test.

Table 1. Pre- and post-course mean scores for PC practical skills functions by pharmacy students

	Mean*±SD	
	Pre-score 2018 and 2019 (n=45)	Post-score 2018 and 2019 (n=45)
I can identify actual and potential drug-therapy problems	3.7±0.74	4.5±0.49**
I can resolve actual drug-therapy problems	3.1±0.83	4.0±0.35***
I can prevent potential drug-therapy problems	3.2±0.50	4.1±0.49***
I can integrate patient, disease, and drug data to determine desired therapeutic outcomes for a patient	3.0±0.57	4.2±0.56***
I can select parameters of patient care to monitor and provide follow-up services for drug therapy	2.7±0.67	3.9±0.68***

*Five-point Likert scale, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

**p=0.01

***p<0.01

AIM/S

The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of reorganized pharmacy internship to PC practical skills by self-assessment of pharmacy students.



RESULTS

- Pre- and post-internship evaluation results demonstrated significant improvement in most of the survey items (Table 1).
- In the pre-test the mean score of perception about PC skills was 3.44±0.34 and in the post-test 4.38±0.29; p≤0.01.
- Of the PC functions identification, understanding and solving of drug related problems improved (all p=0.01).
- As outcome students perceived their increased role in improvement of patients' quality of life and reducing the treatment costs (both p=0.01).

CONCLUSION

Pharmacy students perceived significant improvement in their PC practical skills during pharmacy internship. Results demonstrate that updated pharmacy internship course has been successfully implemented.

REFERENCES

- Bulatova NR, Aburuz S, Yousef AM. An Innovative Pharmaceutical Care Practical Course. Adv Health Sci Educ 2005; 12:211–22.

