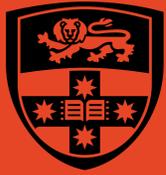


Student-led Entrustable Professional Activities in Hospitals: An analysis of student and preceptor feedback



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Aim
To evaluate a student-led MedRec program from the perspective of students and pharmacist preceptors.

Background
The roles of Australian pharmacy students within hospital placements is often limited; under-utilising the knowledge and skills obtained during tertiary studies. Entrustable professional activities (EPA's) are activities which are entrusted to students to conduct with minimal supervision by preceptor clinicians after demonstrating an acceptable level of competency.¹ Taking a medication history is an EPA students can perform as part of the Medication Reconciliation (MedRec) process. At The Sydney School of Pharmacy, the BPharm/MPharm degrees employ the Miller's Pyramid education framework to develop and assess student competency.

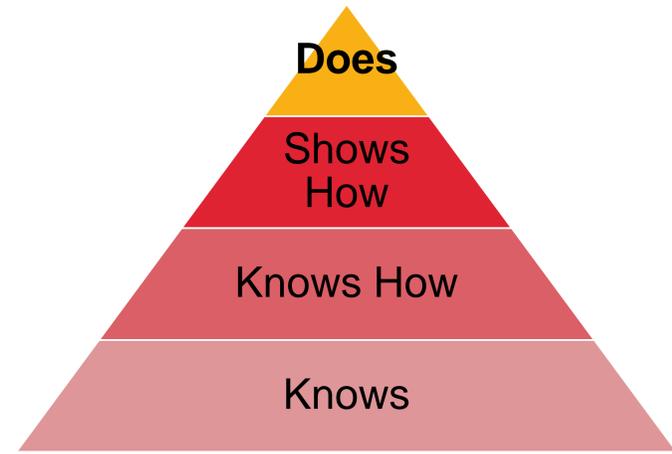


Figure 1: Miller's Pyramid

Method

Consultation Phase



Discussed about the program logistics and practicality with:

- Directors of Pharmacy at Hospitals
- University academics
- University placement administration team

Recruitment Phase



Recruited:

- Hospital pharmacy departments
- Final-year BPharm/MPharm pharmacy students

Implementation Phase



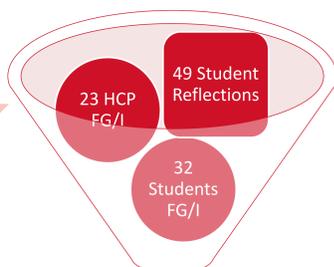
From 2018 to 2022, the MedRec program has been successfully conducted across various metropolitan hospitals with over 297 students participating (Table 1).

Evaluation Phase



From 2019 (n=70 students),

- The data gathered were analysed for emergent themes (Table 2).
- 49 student reflective portfolios
- 55 focus groups/interviews (32 students, 23 preceptors)
- Data from MedRec program 2022 is currently being collected.



Quotes & Themes

Results

Table 1: Implementation of MedRec program from 2018 to 2022.



Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hospitals	4	5	2	5	13
Students	93 (48 pairs)	70 (35 pairs)	16 (8 pairs)	22 (11 pairs)	96 (48 pairs)
Total histories	~950	~1400	~200	~250	~1500
Daily histories	~6 per day	~8 per day	~4 per day	~3 per day	~4 per day
Duration	6 weeks	10 weeks	7 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks

Table 2: Emergent themes and supporting quotes from the evaluation of MedRec program in 2019.

Students	Themes	Pharmacist Preceptors
<p>"The orientation was helpful although I did feel like there was too much information. I actually learnt more by being on the ward and actually doing it [taking medication history]... being a bit more hands on and watching a pharmacist do it as well."</p>	Student preparedness	<p>"The structure...and support is all there leading up to it [MedRec]...students were well prepared...in order to let them apply it practically... But then when it came to the practical application...which you can probably only learn by experiences like this...they were probably less prepared in this aspect."</p>
<p>"The majority of our patients were taking multiple medications and... We encountered patients with language barriers and cognitive impairment, and thus our manner of questioning and obtaining accurate information was important."</p>	Real-life complexities	<p>"...they had a lot of issues getting the histories done, it could be that the patient couldn't speak English or just always small problems seems to slow them down..."</p>
<p>"...being able to be so flexible with the...hospital, helping out because that in itself is...helping them."</p>	Pharmacists overwhelmed by clinical workloads	<p>"...because of the workload over there at the moment...we do understand the value of having students...I appreciated it...but I do really need to go check this [medication history]...making sure everything is right...so it was time consuming...a pharmacist is pulled from like 5 different angles covering different wards, their time is critical"</p>

Discussion & Conclusion

- Refinement of the program over time may allow universities to modify on-campus learning to better prepare students for the complex environment which may allow preceptors to gather trust in students' abilities earlier.
- Preceptors and students may require a more structured approach to setting realistic goals together throughout the MedRec program so that preceptors can better control their workload whilst maintaining the ongoing support for students' professional training and development.