St. Boniface General Hospital Pharmacy Department
Pharmacy Student Practicum Descriptions

The Hospital
St. Boniface General Hospital is a 550 bed tertiary care institution providing a broad range of services to a range of Clinical Programs including: Internal Medicine, Surgery, Cardiac Sciences, Woman and Child, Mental Health, Emergency, Family Medicine, Sub-acute Medicine/Rehab.

The Pharmacy Department
Pharmacy provides both Inpatient and Outpatient Services. Inpatient services are divided into a dispensing service, a central intravenous admixture (CIVA) service, clinical pharmacy services, a drug information service, a drug inventory management and wardstock distribution service.

a) **Dispensing Service:** Centralized/decentralized computerized unit dose drug distribution (Pyxis Automated Dispensing Machines).

b) **CIVA:** Preparation of intravenous drugs in a ready-to-use system for nursing. This service also prepares Adult/Neonatal TPN, inpatient chemotherapy and injectable study medications.

c) **Clinical Pharmacy Services:** Services include drug profile and chart reviews, drug therapy monitoring, pharmacokinetics dosing, drug information, medication counselling, and interdisciplinary rounds. Decentralization of pharmacists in conjunction with Pyxis provides an integrated clinical/distributive role for all pharmacists in the dispensing service.

d) **Drug Information Service:** Drug information is provided to St. Boniface General Hospital physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others.

e) **Drug Inventory Management and Wardstock Distribution:** The Pharmacy does all drug purchasing, receiving, and inventory management for more than $12 million per year of drug purchases.

f) **Investigational Drug Service:** A specialized Pharmacy team provides support essential to the design and implementation of clinical trials.

Outpatient services are provided within the scope of available resources.

Staff of the pharmacy department include approximately 25 pharmacists (excludes management) and a similar number of technicians (and others). Clinical Services are provided to inpatient and outpatient care areas:

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Pharmacists share clinical assignments and Dispensary positions on a rotating schedule.

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Practicum Sites

8A – Palliative Care Unit
This placement site involves patients with terminal illnesses (most often cancer, sometimes cardiac disease) who have a prognosis of 6 months or less. Students will work with attending physicians, medical residents, nurses, social work, home care, and pastoral care. Activities include chart review, medication history, drug therapy monitoring, decentralized drug order entry, drug information, medication counselling as required, and daily team rounds. Students must be able to work with an interdisciplinary team to provide care for the whole patient, including emotional, social, & spiritual aspects of care. Students must also be willing to explore issues surrounding death & dying.

7AS/7AW – General Surgery
This placement site involves surgical patients undergoing intra-abdominal, breast, oral, and plastic surgeries as well as diagnostic procedures. Students will gain experience with medical conditions such as colon and breast cancer, intra-abdominal infections/diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, ostomies, etc. Students will work with surgical attending physicians, residents, medical students, nurses, dieticians, physio- & occupational therapists, home care, and anesthesia. Activities include chart review, drug therapy monitoring, daily interdisciplinary rounds, pharmacokinetics (mostly aminoglycosides), drug information, med counselling, TPN monitoring, and decentralized drug order entry. Students must be self directed, motivated, and able to accommodate a 06:45h start time.

6A Family Medicine
This placement provides exposure to patients with diabetes complications, falls/weakness /decreased mobility, CVA, CHF, dialysis inpatients, infectious diseases, COPD, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson’s disease. Students will work with attending and family physicians, medial residents, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians, home care, and social workers. Activities include chart review, daily interdisciplinary rounds, medication history, decentralized drug order entry, drug therapy monitoring, clinical pharmacokinetics, drug information, medication counselling, & discharge planning rounds. Students must be motivated & well organized.

5E, 5B Medicine
This placement offers students the chance to work with patients with diabetes complications, infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease, COPD, renal failure, and cancer diagnoses. Students will work with attending physicians, medical residents, medical students, nurses, occupational and physiotherapists, dieticians, home care, and social workers. Activities include chart review, medication history, decentralized drug order entry, drug therapy monitoring, clinical pharmacokinetics, drug information, interdisciplinary rounds, medication counselling, liaison with community pharmacy, and discharge planning rounds. Students must be motivated and well organized.

Cardiology
This team looks after patients post acute myocardial infarct (MI), or those with acute coronary syndrome, angina, congestive heart failure (CHF), arrhythmias, and those awaiting coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), or pacemaker/valve replacement. Students will work with cardiologists, cardiology fellows, medical residents/students, nurses, occupational and physiotherapists, dieticians, home care, and social workers. Activities include daily rounds, chart review, medication history, decentralized order entry, drug therapy monitoring, clinical pharmacokinetics, discharge medication counselling, and provision of drug information. Students must be motivated, self-directed, and well organised.

E4 Subacute Medicine/Geriatric Medicine
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This team looks after patients with pain, diabetes complications, depression, and hypertension. It is also responsible for geriatric medicine, orthopaedic or stroke rehabilitation, and patients requiring services of the geriatric assessment unit. Students will work with attending and family physicians, medical housestaff (occasionally), nurses, occupational and physiotherapists, dieticians, social workers, home care workers, and pastoral care workers. Activities include chart reviews, med history, drug therapy monitoring, clinical pharmacokinetics, drug information, physician/team rounds, medication counselling, liaison with community pharmacy, and decentralized drug order entry. Students must be motivated and well organized.

ICUs – Critical Care
Students assigned to this team will provide care to post- coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG) patients, patients with acute renal failure, acute coronary care syndrome, tachydysrrhythmias, GI bleed, pulmonary edema, septic shock, and those requiring cardiac and/or hemodynamic monitoring. Students will work with medical intersivists, medical residents, critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, and dieticians. Activities include chart review, drug therapy monitoring, pharmacokinetic interpretation and monitoring, EKG interpretation, drug information, interdisciplinary rounds. Students must be independent, self directed, motivated, and require minimal direct supervision.

McEwen – Psychiatry (M2/M3)
Students assigned to this area will provide care to patients with a diagnosis of psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, etc., with or without concurrent medical or chemical dependency diagnosis. Students will work with attending psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, medical students, registered psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists, nursing assistants, activity workers, and pastoral care workers. Activities include chart reviews, drug therapy monitoring, management of medication side effects, ongoing medication education for patients, order entry, drug information, and participation in weekly care planning and discharge planning rounds. Students must be independent, self-directed, and motivated to acquire experience and expertise in this broad-based and challenging clinical area.

Nephrology
Students assigned to this area will work with patients who receive hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. Hemodialysis patients generally come in for dialysis 2-3 times a week for 4 hours/session. Peritoneal dialysis patients generally do their own dialysis at home but are seen in the Ambulatory Care Clinica every 1-3 months. Conservative/Pre-Dialysis patients are seen every 1-6 months in clinic where renal disease is monitored. Students may also look after dialysis patients that are hospitalized. Students will have opportunities to work with nephrologists, medical housestaff (occasionally), dialysis nurses, dieticians, and home care workers. Activities include chart review, profile review (Rx Data Perfect), drug therapy monitoring, drug information, physician/team rounds, patient teaching, medication reviews, and nursing inservices. Students must be independent, self directed, motivated, and require minimal direct supervision.