

BEST PRACTICE - 2

1. Title of the Practice:

Posting interns in various clinical departments of the hospital

2. Objectives of the Practice:

Internship – Transition from a student to Professional. The overall aim of the internship programme is to provide an educationally sound experience for the speech and hearing professional in terms of skills, experience, attitudes and personal development. In the speech and hearing department, interns will have limitations to the variety of cases they see in a hospital set up like this where more than 25 departments exists. Posting these interns for a specific period across the departments will foster their knowledge in assessing and rehabilitating various disorders of speech and language.

3. The Context:

There is a lack of patient referrals to the department from various other clinical departments due to lack of awareness among other professionals. Because of this, the interns are not exposed to variety of other cases which usually comes to other departments. By posting interns in various departments such as neurology, ENT, paediatrics, oncology, the awareness among the professionals and the clinical exposure of the interns can be improved by providing immediate assessment of various cases under supervision.

4. The Practice:

- Permission to post interns in various departments was obtained from the department head prior to the commencement of the practice. Interns were posted in neurology, ENT, paediatrics, oncology departments for a minimum duration of one week. During this period, they were asked to observe all the cases which is related to speech and hearing and to participate in rounds and discussions. All the patients with speech and hearing problems were screened and if required recommended for detailed evaluation. The staffs from our department visits various departments where the interns are posted to monitor the participation of the interns. At the end of each posting, interns were asked to do case presentations and based on the performance and discussion; ratings will be given to individual intern.

5. Limitations:

- Internship periods were too short and majority of interns think that the most appropriate internship period would be one month in each department.
- Supervision of interns has been cited as being problematic.
- Hesitation to ask for clarification.
- Supervision by speech and hearing faculties.

- Most interns felt confused on whom they should approach in each department during their postings.

This practice however provides certain benefits like:

- Hands on practical experience and exposure across various case population.
- Provides to bridge a gap between academic learning process and practical aspects.
- It contributes significantly for knowledge and skill based study.

6. Evidence of Success:

The postings of interns across various departments will result in the following.

- a. Information processing skills to solve problems.
- b. Interpersonal skills to effectively teamwork incorporating cooperation-related skills.
- c. Learning skills incorporating active learning, self-esteem, career development planning, and self-confidence.
- d. Decision making, comprising identifying key causes, critical thinking, decision making, prioritizing, and goal setting.
- e. Integration of theory & practice adapting skills learnt to new situations at work, problem solving skills to identify problems and develop creative yet practical solutions, analytical skills for collecting, analyzing and organizing information. Collaboration across departments, understanding performance as an individual and as a member of a team, drive to learn being enthusiastic.
- f. Time management skills for managing tasks and time for self and others.
- g. Organizing work and meeting deadlines, communication skills for speaking and writing clearly and be able to convey messages effectively.
- h. Able to relate with different people in different settings, self-confidence/assertiveness, being pro-active.
- i. Taking on responsibility, listening skills for understanding, interpreting and evaluating information.

7. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Acceptance of interns in various departments
- Inability to monitor interns by our staffs in those departments.
- Lack of motivation among interns to interact with other professionals

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