

## Student Specialty Pharmacy Sample Learning Experience Description

*In recognition of the need to develop future specialty pharmacy practitioners, the **ASHP Section of Specialty Pharmacy Practitioners - Section Advisory Group on Workforce Development** has developed a sample elective learning experience description compiling suggested activities and experiences for pharmacy students.*

### **Institution Name**

Pharmacy Department  
Specialty Pharmacy, Elective Rotation

<p><b>Primary Preceptor:</b></p> <p>Name Job Title Email</p>	<p><b>Additional Preceptors:</b></p> <p>Name Job Title Email</p> <p>Name Job Title Email</p>
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### **General Description**

The Specialty Pharmacy learning experience is an [elective or ambulatory care focused], {duration} long rotation for pharmacy students at *Institution Name*. The *specialty pharmacy name* is a closed-door, mail-order pharmacy that dispenses specialty medications. *Specialty pharmacy name* is located on \_\_\_\_\_ with many decentralized pharmacist and technician locations throughout the entire campus.

Specialty medications are defined as high-cost medications that require clinical monitoring, administration, and/or unique storage parameters. Our pharmacy offers a high touch, comprehensive care system of pharmacological care in which patients with chronic illness and complex disease states receive expert therapy management and support tailored to their individual needs. Clinical pharmacists work in coordination and directly with physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and social workers in various clinical service lines and ambulatory clinics. Specialty pharmacy employees assist providers with insurance prior authorizations, financial benefits investigations, and the insurance appeal process. Additionally, staff coordinate with logistics companies, couriers, and delivery-based service companies to ensure product quality and to meet the standards of some of the unique specialty medication storage requirements.

Clinical pharmacists provide patient education and strategies on optimizing medication therapies and enhancing patient compliance through face-to-face counseling or follow-up phone calls to all patients taking specialty medications. Clinics utilize clinical services in the following areas: Asthma, Cystic Fibrosis, Dermatology, Fertility, Gastroenterology, Growth Hormone Disorders, Hematologic Disorders,

Hepatitis C, HIV, Multiple Sclerosis, Neurologic Disorders, Oncology, Osteoporosis, Rheumatology, Transplant, and more.

Students will be provided opportunities to develop patient-care skills necessary for complex medication-related disease states and medical complications.

Student responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: performing medication reconciliation, adherence assessment phone calls, medication counseling, screening drug-drug interactions, providing injection training to patients, collaborating with manufacturers for replacement products, and communicating with providers for recommendations to optimize patient medication therapies.

The student will also participate in central operations as part of the specialty pharmacy workflow which may include, but is not limited to: prescription processing, addressing drug utilization review, interpreting claim adjudications, completing prior authorizations, assisting in the appeal process, co-payment assistance, pharmaceutical billing processes, dispensing operations, and delivery operations.

Students will develop skills in the following areas while on rotation: time management skills, multi-tasking skills, communication skills, clinical knowledge in specialty medications and disease states, and counseling skills.

### **Hours and Preceptor Interaction**

*{Include dates/time; example below}*

- *0800-0830: Meet with preceptor and create schedule/designate tasks for the day*
- *0830-1100: Partake in clinical operations and initiate clinical follow-ups*
- *0900 (M-W-F): Engage in specialty pharmacy staff huddle in central operations*
- *1100-1200: Check-in with preceptor for afternoon discussions/schedule updates, check-in with operations, call center, and script data entry staff for delivery confirmations and issues for patients that student is coordinating*
- *1300-1530: Wrap-up clinical activities for the day, and engage in discussions with primary preceptor*
- *1600: End of day check-in with primary preceptor for outstanding issues and coordinating next-day activities*

*\*\*Tentative schedule above is subject to change at the discretion of preceptors and coordination with student\*\**

### **Site Specific Dress Code:**

Business casual with lab coat and name tag.

### **Professionalism and Academic Honesty:**

Students must act professionally in all respects including appearance, demeanor, communication, classroom attitude, and behavior. Devices may be used if instructed to look up information during the rotation. For further and more complete description of professional behavior, refer to your institution's student code of conduct.

### **Potential Disease State and Topics Encountered**

Common topics in which the student will be expected to gain proficiency through literature review, discussion, and/or direct patient care experience include, but are not limited to:

- *Asthma & Allergy*
- *Bleeding Disorders*
- *Cardiology*
- *Cystic Fibrosis*
- *Dermatitis*
- *Enzyme Deficiency*
- *Epilepsy*
- *Growth Hormone Disorders*
- *Hematologic Disorders*
- *Hepatitis C*
- *HIV*
- *Infertility*
- *Inflammatory Bowel Disease*
- *Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis*
- *Lupus*
- *Migraine*
- *Multiple Sclerosis*
- *Neurologic Disorders*
- *Oncology*
- *Osteoporosis*
- *Psoriasis*
- *Psoriatic Arthritis*
- *Pulmonary Hypertension*
- *Rheumatoid Arthritis*
- *Substance Use Disorders*
- *Transplant*
  
- *Operations*
  - *Insurance Overview*
  - *Patient Assistance Programs*
  - *Medication Reconciliation*
  - *Medication Education*
  - *Adherence Coaching*
  - *Storage specifications for specialty medications*
  - *Logistics and Delivery of medications*
  - *Script Data Entry*
  - *DUR Review*

### **Rotation Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

*Insert learning objectives – can vary if this rotation is fulfilling community rotation requirement vs ambulatory care vs administration. Example provided below:*

**Learning Objectives (Pharmacy Knowledge):**

1. Describe and demonstrate the roles and activities of the pharmacist in a specialty pharmacy setting.
2. Explain the processes within a specialty pharmacy.
3. Perform cold chain distribution.
4. Prepare, dispense, schedule, and coordinate shipping of specialty medications.
5. Increase familiarity with specialty pharmacy accreditation requirements.
6. Sharpen interprofessional communication and presentation skills.
7. Provide assistance with benefits investigation, prior authorizations, claim adjudication, and financial assistance
8. Review electronic medical records to evaluate a patient’s specialty medication.
9. Create and evaluate patient-specific care plans.
10. Demonstrate in depth patient counseling and management of specialty medications.
11. Discuss pertinent issues that are related to specialty pharmacy such as financial assistance and insurance.

**Required Rotation Activities and Requirements**

\*Revise as appropriate per individual rotation offered

Activity	Frequency
Discuss Organization Policies and Procedures	Once
Monitoring drug therapy	Daily
Discuss Treatment and Management of Specialty Disease States	Daily
Provide comprehensive medication management, participate in pharmacotherapy decision making, and use the medication list to identify potential drug interactions/allergies	Daily
Provide unbiased and accurate drug information to all health care professionals and work with them to develop specialized pharmacy services as needed	Daily
Formal Presentation	Once
Formal Patient Case presentation	Once
Journal Club presentation	Once
Disease State Topic Discussions	As requested (minimum of 5)
Injection Trainings	As requested (minimum of 5)
Participate in Pharmacy Staff Meetings	As requested
Attend pertinent Organization and Clinical Meetings	As requested
Research and Review REMS Medications	As requested
Drug Information Questions	As requested
Create educational brochures, posters, and other educational materials to be utilized by the staff	As requested

### **Evaluation Methods and Grading**

2- to 3-paragraph description of evaluation methods & grading (eg, presentations, journal clubs, supervised patient interactions, etc.) based on objective/goals section above/below

e.g Students will be formally evaluated during midpoint and final evaluations with their preceptors via {Platform/evaluation method}

### **Student's SMART Goals – to be submitted by the student at the start of rotation**

1. Goal one
2. Goal two
3. Goal three

### **Required Readings and Expected Knowledge**

- *Required readings are located in the:* [redacted]
- *Preceptors will determine readings based on topic discussions, student interest areas, and clinical situations that may arise while on service.*