

Advancing Pharmacy Education in Norway

A Clinical Placement Program

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Introduction & Aim

Practical experience bridges the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application. Key stakeholders within the professional pharmacy educational sphere emphasize the need for increased use of clinical placement programs to ensure relevance of the pharmacy education.

We aimed to develop a clinical placement program for pharmacy students that encompasses services both in hospitals and municipalities. This poster outlines the evolution of the program from 2012 to 2024 and presents its current status.

Methods

Our strategy involves several key components:

- **Building networks and partnerships** Initiatives are taken to form partnerships with healthcare sector leaders, securing official agreements and collaboration with healthcare facilities.
- **Curriculum enhancement** Curriculum is continuously improved to ensure alignment with practical requirements.
- **Module experimentation** Various clinical placement modules have been tested to increase the educational experience for learners.
- **Interdisciplinary collaboration** Joint educational activities with medical students are included to enrich the learning environment.
- **Assessments** The OSCE exam is developed and implemented to align with practical skills requirements.

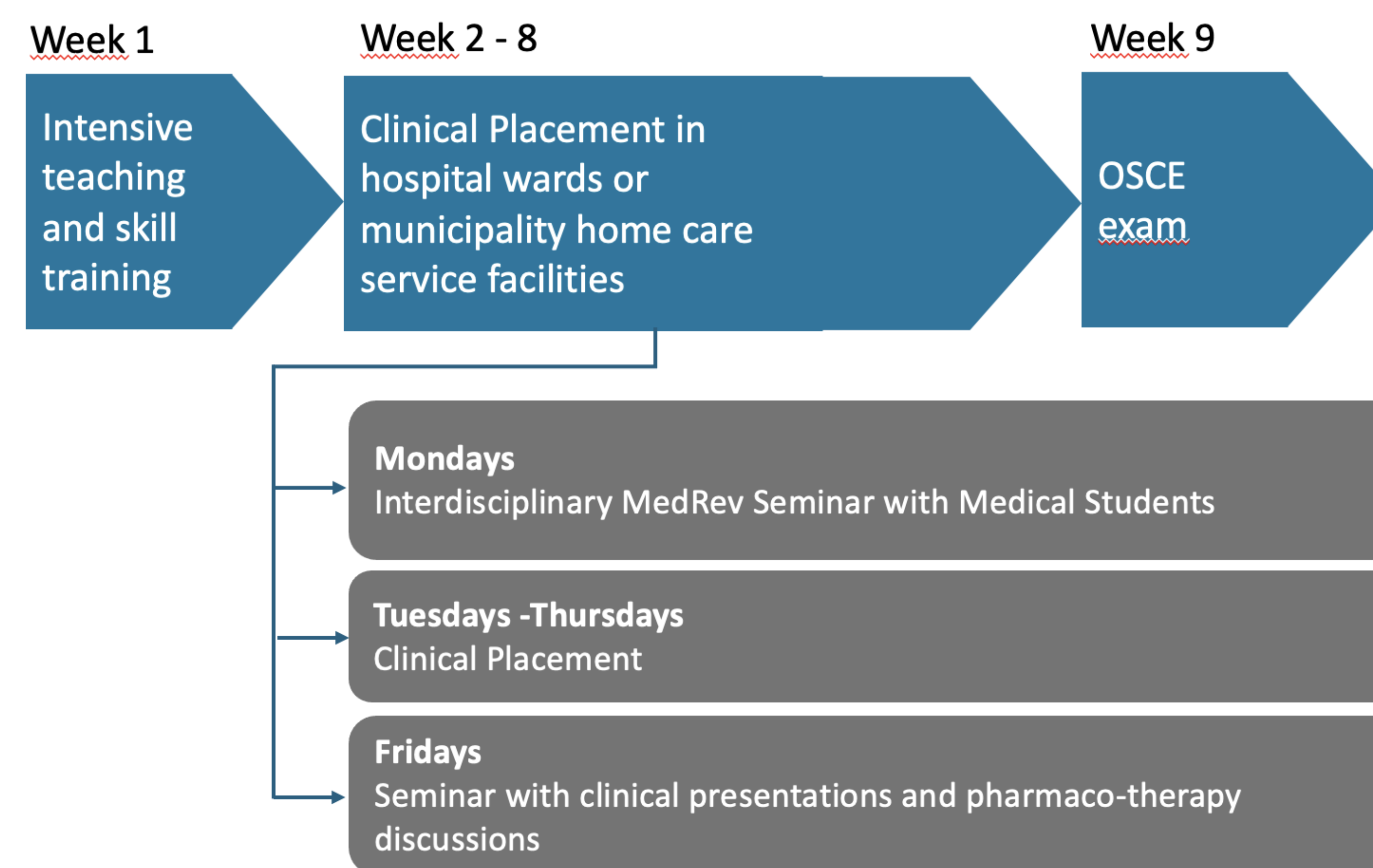


Figure 1: Organization of the mandatory clinical placement program for students enrolled in the Master of Pharmacy program at UiT The Arctic University of Norway

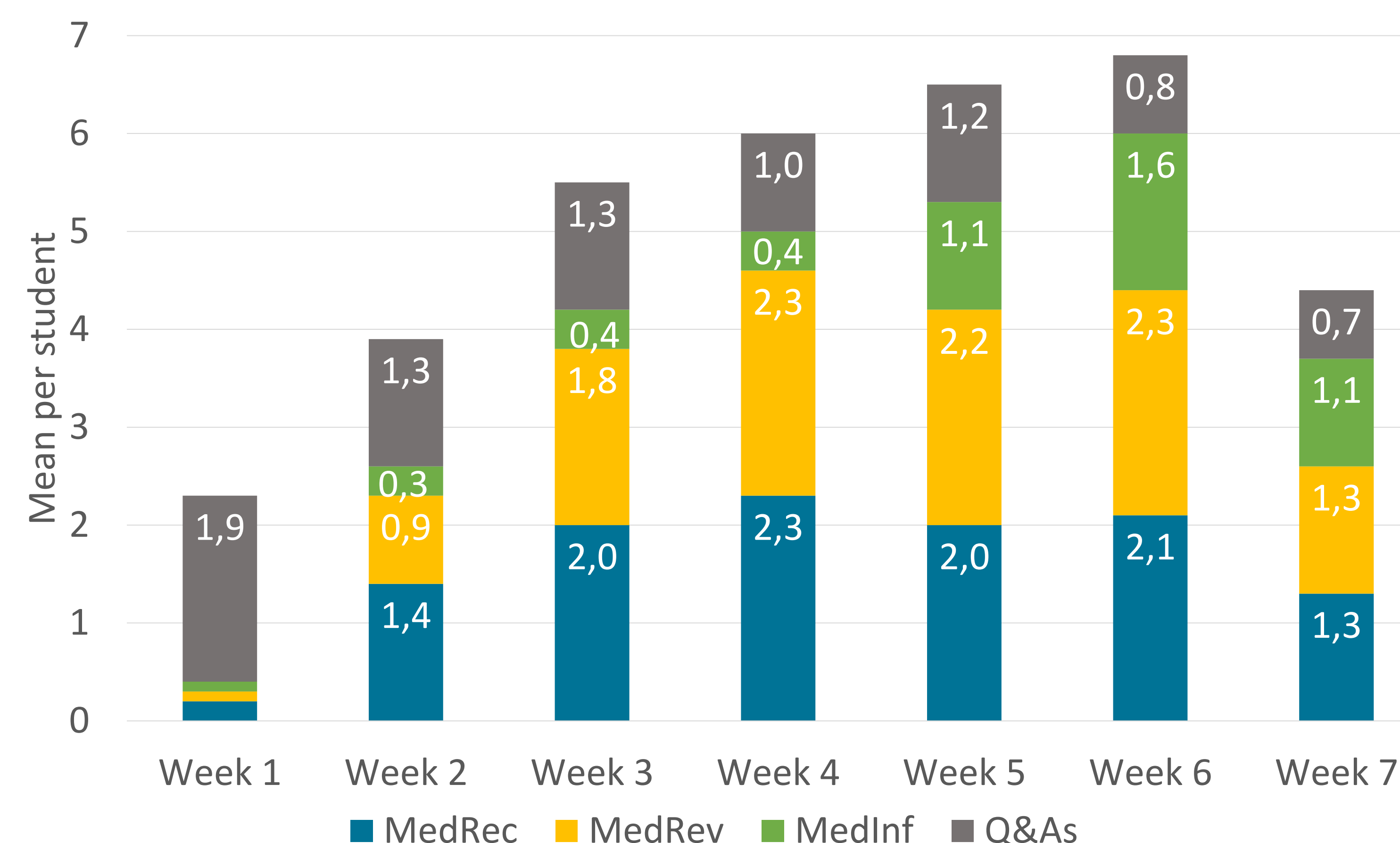


Figure 2: Mean number of work tasks performed by the pharmacy students (n=28) during clinical placement at the University Hospital of North Norway in 2018.

Results

- **Course structure** Refer to Figure 1 for the current course layout.
- **Partnerships** Established agreements with the University Hospital of North Norway (32 students) and Tromsø Municipality (4 students).
- **Practical training** Students engage in hands-on activities such as medication reconciliation, review, and patient interaction, see Figure 2.
- **Weekly seminars** Include discussions on patient cases, pharmacotherapy and interprofessional collaboration.
- **Patient impact** Students identify and report medication discrepancies, errors, and safety issues to physicians and takes on patient care responsibility.
- **Positive feedback** Both students, preceptors, and clinics report high satisfaction with the program, stating that it enhances pharmacotherapeutic knowledge as well as clinical and patient care skills.

Conclusions

The clinical placement program marks a significant advancement in pharmacy education. By immersing students in real-world settings, we empower them to become competent and compassionate pharmacists. The positive feedback from both students and preceptors underscores the program's success.

Abbreviations: MedRec: Medication reconciliation, MedRev: Medication Review, MedInf: Medication information to patients, OSCE; observational structured clinical examination, Q&A: questions and answers in interdisciplinary team.