

Abstract

Introduction: Pharmacists are no longer the only immunizers in community pharmacy. Pharmacy students and certified technicians who have completed an immunization training course are able to give vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist. The purpose of this study is to assess the preparedness of SIUe School of Pharmacy, third-year pharmacy students, to give immunizations and educate patients, after the one-time APhA Immunization Training.

Methods: A Qualtrics survey was distributed during the Spring 2023 Intersession, via email, Blackboard and QR code. Unique identifiers were assigned to each survey participant to correlate pre- and post-surveys results. Following the pre-survey, students participated in intersession learning activities to enhance their knowledge regarding immunizations. The students also practiced administering intramuscular and subcutaneous vaccinations on each other. After completion of these activities, students completed a post-survey to evaluate their perceptions of how the participation in this spring intersession activity affected their knowledge and confidence surrounding knowledge of immunizations and administration.

Results: 88% of participants indicated the additional vaccination administration skills training was helpful in preparing for APPE rotations. 94% of participants indicated the vaccination education activity was helpful in preparing for APPE rotations. Although 75% of participants work in a community setting, survey results indicate that 100% of respondents who either solely work in a hospital setting, or do not work at all, stressed the need and benefit for additional practice.

Conclusion: Overall, this showed a positive impact on confidence levels following the intersession immunization activities with current 3rd year pharmacy students. These results will be shared with faculty to enhance the curriculum, while also improving student confidence and preparedness.