

Successful collaboration between MI centres and Aston University resulted in the efficient delivery of undergraduate teaching.



Background

In September 2023, several Medicines Information (MI) services in the region were approached by Aston University to deliver pioneering MI training for Year 2 MPharm students. Recognising the evolving pharmacy undergraduate course, the training focussed on key enquiry answering skills in several specialist areas to support this cohort towards independent prescribing. The training was provided under the required NHSE placement tariff. The decision to provide on-campus training was a strategic approach to solve the issue of training capacity on NHS sites and not all sites having MI services. As a result of this training students are expected to be more prepared for their hospital placements and foundation training.

What did we do?

- Students received introductory online session covering MI principles and five specialty sessions (selected by Aston).
- The build of materials and delivery of on-campus sessions were undertaken by MI staff from across the region.
- Learning outcomes, templates and guidance were provided by Aston.
- Training content inc. pre-session work, on-campus sessions, post-session work, and assessment questions.
- The MI team at UHB worked with Aston, and UKDILAS to jointly develop and deliver the Pregnancy and Breastfeeding session.
- The on-campus session incorporated interactive learning methods, inc. case studies, Mentimeter®, and smaller and larger group discussions, to actively engage students.
- Organisations received payment for material development and delivery of training.

How did it go?

- During the on-campus session verbal engagement from many students was poor.
- The bespoke/personalized training usually delivered in a MI setting was lost.
- Student feedback is limited. Students were poor survey responders, and it is not possible to identify feedback for specific sessions.
- Available feedback indicates that students found the MI training useful and commented positively on receiving training from MI specialists.

What will we change?

- Aston have confirmed this training will be repeated in 2025.
- Add further tools to facilitate student participation, e.g.
 - on-line discussion boards
 - working in smaller groups
 - reducing presentation time
 - adding shorter case studies or quick polls
- We will request session-specific feedback at the time of session delivery.

Student Feedback

NB. Feedback was given to the whole MI training and is not specific to the P'cy & B'feeding session



Further questions

- Is Year 2 the optimal time to deliver this practical training?
- Has the training increased student competence?
- Has there been an observed benefit demonstrated during student placements?

Bringing Medicines Information to the Aston University Campus



Katy Davies, Advanced Clinical Pharmacist – Medicines Information, katy.davies@uhb.nhs.uk



Laura Kearney, Consultant Pharmacist – Medicines Information & UKDILAS Clinical Lead, Laura.Kearney@uhl-tr.nhs.uk



University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

