

Title: Pharmacy Rotations, Patient Access, and Peds Rx

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Thanks...

First – all glory to God, we would not be here today without his presence.

Secondly, I would like to thank my beautiful wife and mother to my children for taking the time to be here with me today. She gives me great strength and I'm very thankful for her.

Third, many thanks to Dr. DeHart, Dr. Beal, and Samford Professors and faculty for having me here today

Lastly, many thanks to Tyrell Judkins, my student pharmacist at Peds Rx for inviting me here today to speak to Samford's Chapter of the "Student National Pharmaceutical Association".

Speech...

My very first rotation in pharmacy school was in 2009 at the Rite Aid in Mountain Brook, AL. The pharmacy was next to The Western Grocery store. That store has since been closed, and the area is now undergoing renovation. For me, that's where my journey in community pharmacy began.

I started pharmacy school without any pharmacy experience under my belt besides some shadowing I had done at a compounding pharmacy in Chattanooga, TN. And so, by April 2009 I had made it through my first year of classes, singing a familiar song, many of you may be familiar with. It's title "C equals PharmD" I knew the lyrics well to "C equals PharmD" I think my version of the song became an instant classic here at Samford. So, I'm on my first rotation and now, I am expected to retrieve phone in prescriptions from doctors and nurses, count tablets by five quickly and accurately, consider OTC recommendations for patients, and learn the top 200 drugs..

It wasn't easy, it was uncomfortable, and I felt inadequate at moments. I'll admit that at times I second guessed my career path.

Yet the weeks kept ticking by... Week two was better than week one, week three, was better than week two... I was quickly nearing the conclusion of my first rotation experience.

By the end of the rotation, I was proud that I had reached a small milestone. They finally trusted me enough to enter a few

prescriptions into their computer's pharmacy software.

Brooke Lankford, my preceptor, sat me down to give me my final evaluation. And to my surprise she told me that I was an asset to the pharmacy school. She told me that one day I would be a good pharmacist..

She encouraged me and showed me that a pharmacist cares, a pharmacist gives it 100%, a pharmacist gets stressed with workflow and management, a pharmacist juggles a lot of roles. But at the end of the day, makes a great impact on the community.

I learned a great deal in 4 weeks. I studied package inserts and yearned for more knowledge throughout the month. Brooke's kindness, encouragement, and passion to be an effective preceptor spurred me to be a better student.

I worked at Walgreens throughout pharmacy school, and honed my skills under pharmacists like Joe Randall and Tim Lacey.. And before I knew it, I was staring at 4th year rotations. Year 1 of pharmacy school was a blur, year 2 was tough I had finally learned to breathe during my exams, year 3.

I finally felt like I was beginning to put the pieces together.

Yes, it may not feel like it today, but if your journey is leading you to the practice of pharmacy, and I want to encourage you to be diligent and patient.

My fourth year rotations have and still influence my pharmacy practice today.. All of the pharmacist I worked under during this year demonstrated a passion for serving patients. We talk about patient access, but you can't provide that access until you study and learn the details and nuances of the profession.

Cecil Durrett at Eutaw Drug in Eutaw, AL taught me the meaning of being a community pharmacist for a small town. I saw Cecil act as the pharmacist for his independent pharmacy Eutaw Drug, the pharmacy consultant to the nursing home, and the hospital pharmacist for a 20 bed hospital in Greene County Alabama

Jeb Mitchell and Scott Ortis at Solutions Infusion Therapy showed me that pharmacists could own an independent home infusion pharmacy and employ nearly 50 people. provide pharmacy services, nursing support,

enteral nutrition, and phototherapy for kids with newborn jaundice.

Dr. Kyle at Shelby Baptist encouraged me to be me and taught me about how to take care of patients as a hospital pharmacist. He gave me a general framework for what it meant to be a clinical pharmacist, professor, and preceptor. If any of you are fortunate to have his rotation, yes. you need to wake up at 4am to drive to Alabaster to workup your patients and have recommendations for kinetics, and enteral nutrition.

Lea Wolsoncroft, showed me the roadmap to how a community pharmacy could take care of a pediatric population. She is a visionary in the practice of pharmacy in the State of Alabama and was able to provide children with access to compounded medications in her pharmacy practice at Kids Meds.

Dr. Susan Alverson, I did an academic rotation with her. And she encouraged me and told me that I could do well as a pharmacist. She told me that it would be good for me to have a mentor in the profession to reach my full potential.

Julie Lasseigne, my final preceptor of my fourth year would let me be free, and roam

Children's of Alabama. I would shadow Brenda Denson one day, Mary Worthington the next day.

I never got a chance to shadow the outpatient pharmacy. When my rotation was over, I told Julie that the outpatient pharmacy should be on the list of places that future students should shadow. Little did I know that the outpatient pharmacy would close in August 2012.

So, when you go out on rotations – be observant, be kind to your co-workers and preceptor. take notes, listen, work hard. I tell students that you don't have to be just like me when you become a pharmacist.

But at least observe me and decide for yourself what you like and don't like about the way I practice pharmacy. Think about how you can be better than me. Think about how you can help serve patients and make their lives easier. Think about how you can make the healthcare team better. And ultimately how can you make the pharmacist a more integral and vital contributor to the healthcare team.

So why are rotations important...

Julie Lasseigne my preceptor from Children's of Alabama, would hire me as an inpatient staff pharmacist 2 weeks after my rotations ended. Julie is now the director of pharmacy at Children's of Alabama, and Brenda Denson, one of the pharmacists I shadowed during that fourth year rotation became a member of the Alabama Board of Pharmacy a few years ago.

Jeb Mitchell and Scott Ortis at Solutions Infusion Therapy earned the opportunity to reopen the outpatient pharmacy at Children's of Alabama after it had been closed for one year. Since I did my rotation with them and was currently a staff pharmacist at Children's of Alabama, they called me to help them get things started... that pharmacy we worked on would later become known as Peds Rx Pharmacy Solutions.

The pharmacy software at Eutaw Drug would become my pharmacy software at Peds Rx. The work I did under Lea Wolsoncroft at Kids Meds helped me understand the potential workflow issues I would face providing care to a pediatric population in a community pharmacy setting.

And Dr. Alverson, by the time Peds Rx opened, she was the Executive Secretary at

the Board of Pharmacy and would be one of the first people I called to thank the day before opening our doors at Peds Rx.

Pharmacy is a small world. A very very small world. We learn from each other, we rely on each other, and yes... not everyone likes each other. But at the end of the day, we have patients to take care of. Prescriptions to verify, Prior authorizations to complete, immunizations to give, doses to check, prescriptions to compound, and phone in prescriptions to receive.

In terms of patient access. I've worked with Pharmacists that completed the prior authorizations to make sure the patient got discharged out of the hospital with the right drug and the right quantity..

I've worked with the Pharmacists that stayed at the pharmacy 2 hours after the shift ended to make sure the prescriptions were right, and the counter was clean so that patients didn't have to wait in a long line when the doors opened in the morning.

I watched Dr. Bumgarner leave the pharmacy school at 5pm in his car, only to drive hours away to the black belt of Alabama to precept clinics.

I remember watching Dr. Susan Alverson send money Western Union to Africa, because one of the women that she met while she was there needed money for food and clothes.

I watched Cecil at Eutaw drug cut a check for the local high school, so that the high school football team would have football uniforms for the jamboree after a concerned parent told him the boys didn't have the uniforms, they needed to represent the community.

I've watched, observed, and learned from pharmacists since entering pharmacy school. If you see me doing something good, or more than what's expected... It's because the generation of pharmacists before me did those things.

So, in terms of patient access... Ask yourself the following questions... And this is simply a short list.

1. Do you care about the patient and their family?

2. Do you want to help solve the medication problem?
3. What can you legally do to help the patient get the medication?
4. Would you go the extra mile to help, will you spend the extra time to help? Meaning phone calls, staying late sometimes, maybe even making a home delivery...
5. How can you help patients become more compliant with their medications?
6. Can you listen to people's problems (hurts, hang-ups, and sorrows)?
7. Can you offer effective advice so that their problems can potentially be solved?
8. Can you be an educator to your patients?
9. And can you pass along this information to the next generation of PharmD's?

I work with people that care. I worked with people that showed me the way. Remember, pharmacists make a powerful impact in the community.

Before I take questions. I want to give away t-shirts

So, let's see if you can answer some questions from my short speech.

- 1) Who is the pharmacist currently working at Children's of Alabama that is now on the Board of Pharmacy?
- 2) What year did I complete my first pharmacy rotation?
- 3) Where did I work at while in pharmacy school?
- 4) Which Samford professor did I have a rotation with in Alabaster at Shelby Baptist?
- 5) Which Samford professor later became the Executive Secretary of the Alabama Board of Pharmacy?