



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE
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January 2, 2009
Subject: Virtual Patients

Dear Pharmacist,

Thank you for participating in Self Care 2 by volunteering to be a virtual patient. This is a unique forum to integrate community pharmacy issues and the importance of counseling patients.

Through out the semester we will ask you to email a pharmacy related question to your group of four students on designated Mondays, or earlier that weekend (see enclosed schedule). Your identity will be concealed and a “virtual patient” profile will be provided to help guide your questioning. The students will be given the same patient profile describing you and also providing them with some general background information. The group has two weeks to correspond with you and answer your question. They may be asking follow up questions to help evaluate the appropriateness of self-care. You will also be encouraged to communicate among the other virtual patients within the list-serve.

Students should be working together as a group and cc'ing each other on the emails (or they may develop their own group email). You should answer below the previous message on the email, so it reads down the page, and the students should do so to with the current questions. If you feel at anytime your group is lacking teamwork please contact me so I may address this with them early on.

The students will forward a final answer with all of the weekly dialogue to both of us at the end of the week (only start new emails for new questions). They will be instructed to answer the question as if they were speaking to the patient. After the students email their responses, feel free to add your own comments and email a reply to: KellyO@etal.uri.edu. The course coordinator can then review your comments and grade the students on the appropriateness of their answers. We will periodically review the questions and answers in class. If a group gives you an answer that you feel is incorrect or may cause harm to the patient you may let them know in a variety of ways. For example, you could become ill depending on the answer, reply with “actually I read somewhere....”, or as Rash Diva did, have your mother (Cindy Psoriasis) drop an email about the patient’s current hospitalization status. We have in the past delivered lawsuits, we however do not wish to sue students, but in the event of constant lack of effort and poor outcomes, this is an option.

Seven question ideas have been suggested for you to cover to help standardize the questioning (see attached). Feel free to tailor these to your patient’s individual problems and characteristics. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions of your own.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine K. Orr

Kelly Orr, Pharm.D.
Clinical Associate Professor