How much time and money does it cost to train a community-based IPPE student-pharmacist?

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Background

Roseman College of Pharmacy is an accelerated 3-year Pharmacy Doctorate program.

Students complete approximately 380 hours of community-based IPPE rotations in P1 and P2 year.

Roseman does not provide stipends to community preceptors.

Previous Roseman research estimated that pharmacy students can provide an average of $1825 in value while on a 144-hour P2 community-based rotation.

This $1825 estimation did not account for the cost of training the students.

Objective

To estimate the amount of time and money spent training students during a community-based IPPE rotation for two activities: processing new prescriptions and administering immunizations.

Methods

Students identified the personnel type that trained them and estimated time spent training two tasks:
1. Input a new prescription
2. Administer an immunization

Preceptors confirmed/denied submissions

76% response rate
n=106 accepted submissions (out of 172 total)

Results

Average of 34 minutes to train a student to process new prescriptions (71.7% of time spent with technicians)
Average of 27 minutes to administer an immunization (100% of time spent with pharmacist)

Cost per rotation associated with training:
Process new prescriptions: $15.27
Administer Immunizations: $25.80

Implications

By quantifying the amount of time and money spent training student-pharmacists for their IPPE community rotations, the authors plan to:
1) Compare this data to previously published cost savings for these same students to provide a more comprehensive estimate of the financial value of precepting students.
2) Educate preceptors on the financial investment and gains associated with training and precepting students.
3) Identify ways to help offset training costs through didactic curricular interventions that help to prepare students to be practice-ready for their sites.

References


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