

Community Pharmacy 1 Rotation (SPEP 1): Learning Objectives

Pharmacy students are trained in accordance with the NAPRA Entry-to-Practice Competencies. By the end of the Community 1 Rotation, the student will be able (but not be limited) to achieve the following outcomes:

Domain 1: Providing Care (Clinical & Distribution)

- Observe preceptor–patient interactions to learn empathy, confidentiality, and patient-centered communication.
- Conduct at least one supervised patient interview to gather health history, medication use, and OTC/supplement use.
- Identify common brand names and their generic equivalents; understand fast movers in community pharmacy.
- Learn appropriate referral triggers (e.g., red flag symptoms, need for physician follow-up).
- Dispense prescriptions accurately (counting, labeling, packaging) under supervision.
- Become familiar with OTCs, cosmetics, vitamins, herbal supplements, and medical devices commonly dispensed.
- Instruct at least one patient on the use of a medical device (e.g., BP monitor, glucometer).
- Shadow preceptor in insurance claims, third-party billing, and cash handling.
- Practice safe and ethical promotion of pharmacy services without misrepresentation.

Domain 2: Knowledge and Expertise

- Recognize basic therapeutic classes of medications and their OTC alternatives.
- Differentiate between prescription-only medicines and pharmacist-managed OTCs in Qatar.
- Use credible international references and local guidelines (in accordance with MoPH guidelines) to answer at least one drug information question.
- Perform a supervised literature search and summarize one article related to community pharmacy practice.
- Learn to evaluate health products (cosmetics, vitamins, supplements) for safety, appropriateness, and regulation status.

Domain 3: Communication and Collaboration

- Develop effective verbal and non-verbal skills when engaging with patients, adapting to health literacy and language diversity.
- Demonstrate respect for cultural norms in Qatar (Arabic, English, Hindi/Urdu-speaking patients).
- Engage in at least one supervised communication with a prescriber or another pharmacist regarding a medication-related issue.
- Provide basic patient counseling on an OTC product or vitamin under preceptor supervision.
- Collaborate with pharmacy team members (pharmacists, technicians, cashiers) to support smooth workflow.

Domain 4: Leadership and Stewardship

- Observe pharmacy operations, including stock ordering, receiving, and returns – under supervision.
- Identify and discuss inventory management strategies, including handling of expired medicines and recalls.
- Understand the role of support staff (technicians, cashiers) and observe cash counting and reconciliation procedures.
- Recognize the public health role of community pharmacies in Qatar (e.g., vaccination campaigns, awareness events).
- Discuss disaster/pandemic preparedness.

Domain 5: Professionalism

- Arrive punctually and demonstrate accountability, reliability, and professional attire.
- Uphold ethical behavior, including respecting patient confidentiality and avoiding conflicts of interest.
- Identify and discuss examples of unethical or unprofessional practices in community pharmacy.
- Demonstrate professional conduct when handling sensitive requests (e.g., OTC misuse, cosmetic sales pressure).
- Show openness to feedback from preceptors and reflect on personal strengths and limitations.
- Recognize the importance of continuous quality improvement and patient safety, including error reporting and safe dispensing practices.