



School of Pharmacy PhD Projects 2013

Project Title The contribution of pharmacists to the management of multimorbidity

Supervisors Prof. Carmel Hughes and Dr. Cris Ryan

Description Multimorbidity has been defined as the presence of two or more chronic diseases in one patient and is becoming increasingly more common in the population. Multimorbidity presents challenges for the patient and the clinician, not only in terms of the process of care, but also in terms of management and risk assessment. These challenges include lack of time, communication difficulties with other healthcare providers and fragmentation of care. Difficulties relating to clinical uncertainty and professional isolation have also been reported. A recent Cochrane review on interventions implemented in primary care and community settings in those with multimorbidity indicated that there was a clear need for integrated care of multiple conditions. Multimorbidity is usually accompanied by polypharmacy which may prove problematic for some patients.

This project will focus on the contribution of pharmacists to the management of multimorbidity. This will involve the use of quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the extent of multimorbidity in the community pharmacy setting and how pharmacists help patients manage their conditions and medication. A key aspect of this project will be assessing the extent of integration of community pharmacists into the primary care team as effective team-working is thought to contribute to better management of multimorbidity and polypharmacy. Accordingly, the student will gain skills in quantitative and qualitative methodologies which are widely used in health services research. This project will also involve an assessment of prescriptions presented in community pharmacy, and thus the successful candidate will also develop further clinical skills.

This studentship is funded by DEL. Applicants should have a 1st or 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Students who have a 2.2 honours degree and a Master's degree will also be considered.

Candidates must also fulfil the eligibility criteria set by DEL which can be found at this link:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/Research/PostgraduateCentre/PostgraduateAwards/ProspectiveStudents/LocalUKApplicants/ResearchFundingAvailableforUKandEUApplicants/DepartmentforEmploymentLearningDELRResearch/>

Closing date for applications: **October 18th 2013. Applications must be made using the online application portal found at https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php/**

Start Date January 2014

Keywords multimorbidity, polypharmacy, community pharmacy, health services research

Contact Details

pharmacypostgrad@qub.ac.uk

How to Apply

Postgraduate applications should be made using Queen's Online:

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply>

Please note that there are two application processes: one for admission to the university and another for postgraduate awards.

Further Information

Additional information for prospective postgraduate students can be found on the School of Pharmacy website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/pha>

and the Queen's Postgraduate website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/PostgraduateStudents/>