



School of Pharmacy PhD Projects 2014

Project Title Adherence to polypharmacy in older patients with multi-morbidities

Supervisors Dr. Cris Ryan, Prof. Carmel Hughes

Description As the population ages, there is an increase in multimorbidities and associated polypharmacy. Traditionally, evidence based guidelines target single medical conditions, and do not consider additional treatments for co-morbidities. Consequently, not all medicines prescribed to older patients with multi-morbidities are entirely appropriate, and in some instances, conditions may be undertreated. A further challenge encountered with older people, is that up to 50% of patients are non-adherent to their prescribed treatment. These issues increase the risk of avoidable drug related problems, morbidity and mortality in this age group.

There is an on-going programme of work in the School of Pharmacy to develop interventions to improve appropriate polypharmacy in older patients with multi-morbidities. The student will join this team to further develop, test, refine and implement interventions to address these issues in the community pharmacy and general practice settings. In particular, this project will focus on mechanisms of promoting adherence to polypharmacy, and the role of community pharmacists, general practitioners, patients and their carers in ensuring adherence.

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, and thus the successful candidate will also develop further clinical skills.

Start Date October 2014

Keywords

Contact Details

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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/>