

Public Health Practice



Stories from the Field

The University of Texas School of Public Health
Student Practicum Experiences
Summer 2013 – Dual Degree Programs

The practicum experience is an integral part of the MPH and DrPH curricula. Public health students are provided with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real world settings through which they make a meaningful contribution to a public health organization.

Under the guidance of a community preceptor and faculty sponsor, students from all divisions gain a deeper understanding of public health practice, interact with professionals in the field, and expand their repertoire of professional skills.

This eleventh-edition e-magazine showcases student practicum experiences throughout the Summer 2013 semester. (Prior semesters may be accessed through the e-book, a collection of student abstracts and e-magazines describing their experiences.)

Practicum Topics

Serving Size: 1 Practicum per Student

Servings per e-Magazine: 2

Hours per Week per Student	Approximately 12
Campuses (Houston)	1
Division	0

Student

Dual Degree

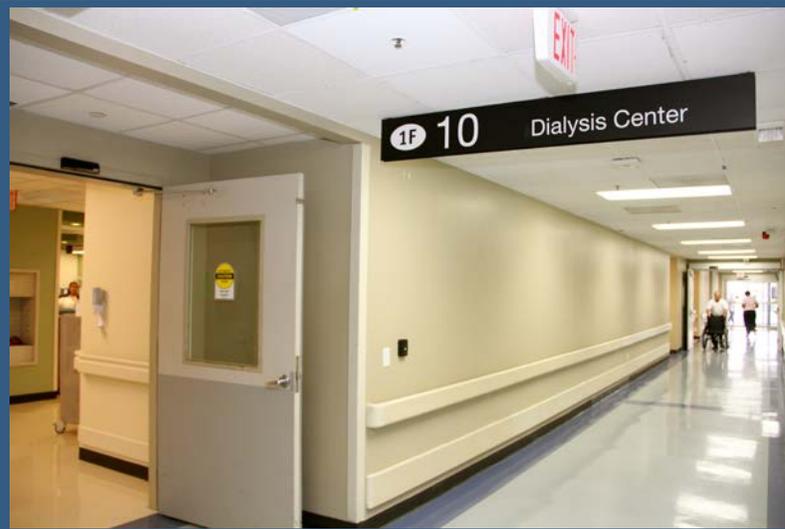
Hemodialysis of Undocumented Immigrants

Stephanie Bradley

Methicillin Resistance Staphylococcus Aeorus

Ronald Cole

Emergent Hemodialysis of Undocumented Immigrants



Dialysis Center of LBJ General Hospital in Houston, TX where patients receive emergent hemodialysis. Photo by Stephanie Bradley

Practicum Duties & Highlights

- Research and assist in pinpointing the current problems regarding emergent hemodialysis of undocumented immigrants in Texas.
- After reviewing data, we have decided to start a cohort study of emergent dialysis patients and the resources utilized to care for them.

Measuring Resource Utilization for Emergent Dialysis Population

By: Stephanie Bradley

For my practicum, I worked on a research project with Dr. David Robinson and a team of physicians from Harris Health System. After reviewing initial data, it became evident that the money spent and resources utilized on emergent hemodialysis were substantial. We chose to start a project identifying the problem in Houston regarding resource utilization for emergent dialysis patients with a focus on undocumented immigrants.

My duties for this project were to study and analyze all current literature on

emergent hemodialysis of undocumented immigrants. The team is in the process of finding suitable data for additional analysis. A preliminary draft of the paper regarding the present issue as we see it is currently being drafted.

In the very near future a cohort study will begin that we will carry over the next few years. We will be looking at numerous different parameters of uninsured patients within Harris Health System in order to determine the resource utilization by the hospitals and ultimately the state of Texas.

Public Health Significance

The amount of resources and money utilized by Texas to treat undocumented immigrants with end stage renal disease (ESRD) is alarming.

My practicum aims to research this existing problem and ultimately present more evidence to support the hypothesis that the amount of resources used to care for undocumented immigrants with ESRD using emergent hemodialysis is not the most cost effective method. In addition, using emergent

hemodialysis causes additional complications with the patient that could be avoided with other approaches.

We plan to address this in the paper by presenting existing data regarding funds spent on the undocumented immigrants receiving emergent hemodialysis. Data collected from other states handling of this population in need of dialysis will be included along with possible solutions for Harris County and ultimately Texas.

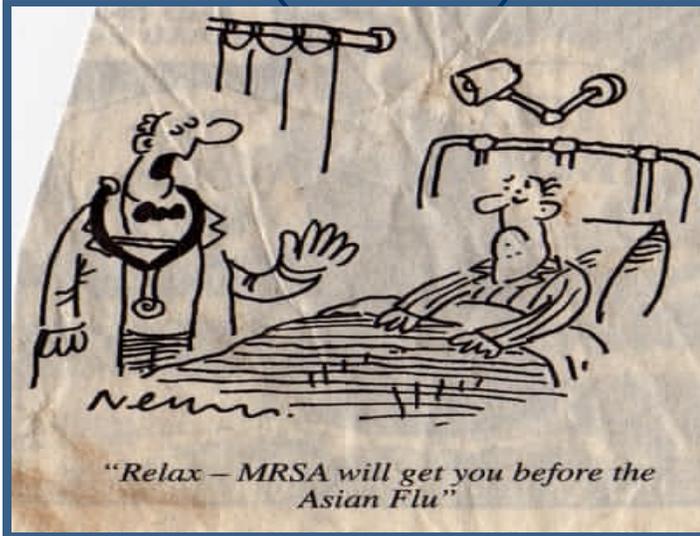
Advice for Future Students

- One piece of advice I have for a future student working on their practicum is to explore and examine all information because it may expose a more significant path not previously considered.



LBJ General Hospital hemodialysis room. Photo by Stephanie Bradley

Methicillin Resistance Staphylococcus Aerus (MRSA)/A Community Burden



The patient is concerned about a current pandemic but the MD informs him that the Asian Flu is the least of his worries. The patient is made aware that MRSA is a true threat to our society. What's MRSA And What Can Be Done About It? October (2007). Retrieved from <http://dr-razavi.blogspot.com/2007/10/whats-mrsa-and-what-can-be-done-about.html>

Special duties

- Assessing Patients of all ages with MRSA and other medical conditions; acute and chronic.
- Perform Electronic Medical Record (EMR) investigation to assess for commonality

Lessons Learned

- We have to think outside the box with possible explanations for the spread in order to truly prevent epidemic and endemic occurrences of any disease. Use your individual creativity to improve upon the current systems in place.

Hospital Acquired MRSA's migration to the community

By: RONALD COLE

I have been working at several medical clinics in four different communities (Pearland, Alvin, Angleton, and Galveston) to identify trends and issues of public health concern.

The topic of most interest was MRSA

Each Medical Clinic had a different approach in dealing with MRSA. Some treated the Community Acquired MRSA like Hospital Acquired MRSA and others didn't treat it at all. During this

assessment I served as a provider and initial investigator to assess if MRSA was a community burden.

Based upon the assessment of all four communities, MRSA is a true burden to the community.

MRSA was being treated as one strand and resulted in unnecessary spread, especially among school age children. Daycare centers, play areas and other child friendly places should be considered when treating MRSA.

Public Health Significance

This experience concentrated solely on the first two Public Health Essential Services (PHES); monitoring health status plus diagnosing and investigating health problems. This serves as a reinvestigation of a pre-existing issue.

Two children with no risk factors for acquiring MRSA in two different communities we treated differently for months; one was given antibiotics known to treat HA-MRSA while the other wasn't medicated at all. Both children continued to have outbreaks

but was not restricted in their participation at daycare or other public areas; a large potential for spread in this population.

My practicum site fits public health by diagnosing the community illnesses, educating and treating them, leading to a healthy and educated population. My practicum experience serves as a link to the medical and public health profession by encouraging the providers to look first hand at their community to catch potential problems at the lowest level.



Locations of possible exposure locations.

<http://mysims3blog.blogspot.com/2011>

<http://www.cultbuzz.com>

For more information regarding
The University of Texas School of Public Health,
Office of Public Health Practice
and the practicum program, please visit:
<https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/practicum/>