

**Marshall University School of Pharmacy**  
**PHAR 885 – Geriatrics APPE Suggested Activities-Readings List**

The Geriatrics APPE is a 5 week experiential rotation that focuses on the provision of clinical pharmacy services in a variety of settings with a focus on care to the elderly population. These sites may include community pharmacies, specialty clinics, rehabilitation hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), home-based consult services, psychiatric facilities, and assisted living facilities (ALFs). A focus is placed on the interdisciplinary care of the geriatric population. Students will enhance knowledge of how to assess pharmacotherapy and appropriateness of drugs, determine how safely and effectively a patient can self-administer the therapy, and how to implement plans to ensure such safe and effective use. Students will be expected to utilize, refine, and apply his or her knowledge base of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pathophysiology, and therapeutics to enhance the quality of pharmacy related care of the elderly.

**Suggested Activities:**

1. Interview/ counsel patients and/or their caregivers concerning their disease states(s) and associated treatment (OTC, Rx, herbal, dietary supplements, etc.). Address special issues in counselling the geriatric patient (hearing, sight, touch (diabetes), cognitive function, etc.).
2. Document interventions in the appropriate manner for the rotation site.
3. Communicate with other health care providers (nurses, PA's, ANRP's, MD's, social workers, DO's, etc.) concerning identified drug-related problems
4. Efficiently answer drug information questions from patients or the health care team.
5. Complete patient/therapeutic case discussions related to the geriatric patient with the preceptor including the following: dementia of the alzheimer's type / confusion in the elderly, parkinson's disease, insomnia, pain management in the geriatric patient, stroke/TIA, bladder dysfunction/ urinary incontinence, falls prevention, constipation, HIV/AIDS, polydiagnosis/ polypharmacy, depression, and asymptomatic bacteremia.
6. Review at least one (1) American Society of Consultant Pharmacist (ASCP) guidelines / practice resources per week and discuss with preceptor (total of 5). Resources may be found at [www.ascp.com](http://www.ascp.com). This may include the following:
  - a. Antipsychotic Medication Use in Nursing Facility Residents
  - b. Comprehensive Medication Reviews in the Long-term Care Setting
  - c. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy
  - d. Home Health Care Practice Resource Center
  - e. Hospice Practice Resource Center
  - f. Assisted Living Community Practice Resource Center

**Additional Activities as Directed by the Preceptor and as Time allows:**

**Daily Tasks:**

1. Multidisciplinary rounding with health care practitioners (as available) focusing on the holistic approach to care of the geriatric patient.
2. Assist in protocol, monitoring parameter, or standing order development as appropriate.
3. Have student complete a weight based or renal dosing for a geriatric patient type.
4. Have student complete a project related to adherence in the geriatric patient.
5. Quizzes on student's pharmacotherapy knowledge.

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6. Perform items to improve physical assessment skills:
  - a. Diabetic foot filament tests and lower extremity screenings
  - b. Blood pressure screenings
  - c. Edema screenings
  - d. Assessment for bruising and bleeding in anticoagulation patients
  - e. Assessment of vitals
  - f. Pain assessment
  - g. DVT screenings (hot, swollen, etc.)
  - h. Assessment of medication side effects such as nystagmus, dyskinesia, etc.

**Periodic Tasks (as opportunities arise):**

1. Complete a home visit with a health care professional.
2. Complete a geriatric Comprehensive Medication Review (CMR) or formal Medication Therapy Management (MTM) case.
3. Complete a Medicare Plan Comparison for a patient and discuss. Understand the health care plan comparison and plan selections and be able to explain to patients.
4. Discuss ways and perform tasks when applicable to increase patient adherence
5. Student may perform a new drug update for pharmacists or professionals on staff.
6. Have the student complete a newsletter article for the site on a topic of interest.
7. Student can develop a patient education brochure / leaflet.
8. Case/ Topic Discussions and Journal Club: student should prepare to present on or discuss topics or journal article. Topics covered could include the following:  
polydiagnoses/polypharmacy, incontinence/constipation, pain/insomnia, stroke/TIA, dementia/confusion/depression, parkinsons disease, osteoporosis, OA, RA
9. Have student submit an adverse reaction to MedWatch or VAERS.
10. Complete a medication use evaluation (MUE).
11. Have the student develop a disease state flip chart for patient education.
12. Site-specific project. Have the student work on a site-specific project that will benefit the practice site. Identify the needs of the practice site with the student and brainstorm ideas that will help solve problems or enhance care.

**Suggested Readings:**

1. 2015 Updated Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults  
[http://www.americangeriatrics.org/files/documents/beers/2012BeersCriteria\\_JAGS.pdf](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/files/documents/beers/2012BeersCriteria_JAGS.pdf)
2. AFib/Stroke prevention Guidelines  
<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/early/2012/08/02/STR.0b013e318266722a.full.pdf>
3. American Diabetes Association (ADA) Guidelines (January 2015 Update)  
[http://professional.diabetes.org/admin/UserFiles/0%20-%20Sean/Documents/January%20Supplement%20Combined\\_Final.pdf](http://professional.diabetes.org/admin/UserFiles/0%20-%20Sean/Documents/January%20Supplement%20Combined_Final.pdf)
4. American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Geriatric Pharmacy Review.  
[www.geriatricpharmacyreview.com](http://www.geriatricpharmacyreview.com)
5. COPD Gold Guidelines:  
<http://www.goldcopd.org/Guidelines/guidelines-resources.html>
6. DCCT Trial

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- <http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pubs/control/>
7. Falls Guidelines and Information:  
<http://www.patientsafety.va.gov/professionals/onthejob/falls.asp>
  8. [http://www.americangeriatrics.org/health\\_care\\_professionals/clinical\\_practice/clinical\\_guidelines\\_recommendations/](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/clinical_practice/clinical_guidelines_recommendations/)
  9. JNC-VIII Guidelines for the management of HTN:  
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1791497>
  10. Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Guidelines  
[http://www.rheumatology.org/Practice/Clinical/Guidelines/Rheumatoid\\_Arthritis\\_\(Members\\_Only\)/](http://www.rheumatology.org/Practice/Clinical/Guidelines/Rheumatoid_Arthritis_(Members_Only)/)