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PT 628.01: Physical Therapy Student Clinic - SERV

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Physical Therapy Student ProBono Clinic PT 628
Fall 2014
1 credit

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Teaching Methods/Learning Experiences: Through Service Learning at the University of Montana and New Directions Physical Therapy, students will be providing rehabilitation and wellness treatments to individuals with chronic or acute pain related to musculoskeletal dysfunction, disease, or injury. These individuals do not have health insurance coverage for physical therapy, would otherwise not receive physical therapy, and are primarily referred from Partnership Health Center. These treatments will be provided under the supervision and guidance of a licensed physical therapist (PT). Students will work individually or as part of a 2:1 model, with two students and one patient.

Each interaction with the patient will be discussed with the supervising PT prior to the student treating or evaluating the patient. The documentation of each treatment and evaluation will be completed by the student and reviewed by the supervising PT. Direct feedback from the supervising PT will be given to each student on the documentation of treatments and evaluations. Opportunities will be made as indicated for direct communication between the student and the referring physician, social worker, consulting pharmacist, or other health care providers involved in the patient’s care.

UM Service Learning Definition: Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students’ understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Student Evaluation/Grading and Commitment: Students will be given full credit for the course upon completion of:

1. A minimum of 9 hours of scheduled clinic time and 6 hours of time outside of treatment for reflection, research, documentation, and consultation with the supervising physical therapist;
2. Active participation in reflection with the supervising physical therapist as well as in the didactic setting when given the opportunity;
3. Completion of a survey at the initiation and end of the clinic. This survey will include questions regarding overall impression and management of the clinic as well as critical thinking regarding how the learning experience affected the student personally, and how the student would improve upon their own performance and/or the clinic itself.
4. If any of the above areas (1,2,3) cannot be completed the student must discuss other options for Service Learning with the instructor prior to the November 1, 2014. The student and instructor must agree on a comparable Service Learning experience including time commitment and reflection in order to obtain credit for this course.
If the requirements for “Student Evaluation/Grading and Commitment” listed above are not met the student will not receive credit for the class.

Reading: Students will be required to perform literature reviews and research outside of scheduled clinic treatment time to provide adequate evidence for treatment interventions and evaluation techniques, as well as outcome measurements specific to the patient’s condition. Students will utilize textbooks and resources from the UMPT Clinic, as well as previous and concurrent didactic classes.

Schedule: The Student Run Clinic will operate during the fall semester 2014 on Fridays from 1-5 pm in October and November, except for state holiday(s). Students will be expected to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early to prepare for their scheduled patients and discuss the treatment plans with the supervising physical therapist. Students will be expected to complete all documentation for the treatments the day of the clinic, and evaluations/discharge documentation within 5 days. This will allow adequate time for review and correction of the documentation by both the supervising PT and the student. Students will be expected to reflect upon the service learning experience each day of the clinic with fellow students and the supervising PT.

Clinic Schedule: Students will be required to request their preferred work dates as instructed by the Student Clinic Administrators and will be chosen based on factors such as timeliness in signing up, willingness to work 3 consecutive clinics, and availability. All efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to participate in the Student Run Clinic.

Course Objectives:

1. Student will demonstrate and perform evaluations and treat individuals in the UM student clinic under the general supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
2. Student will participate in reflection on a daily basis with their peers and the supervising physical therapist.
3. Student will demonstrate the ability to provide research or evidence to support the evaluations, interventions, and patient education performed during this service learning experience.
4. The student will “demonstrate social responsibility, citizenship, and advocacy, including participation in community and human services, organizations and activities”. (APTA Guide to Physical Therapy Practice, 1999)
5. The student will identify individual and cultural considerations, including psychosocial issues, unique to each patient interaction during this Service Learning activity.
6. The student will identify and consider barriers each individual patient has in regard to accessing health care services, maintaining compliance with education and home programs, and pursuing improved health and wellness.