

Prescribing is a complex skill requiring integration of patient and disease factors and contextualization of pharmacology knowledge. Medical and pharmacy students have limited experience in practical prescribing until they qualify. Using case-based scenarios, this e-learning platform is designed to provide practical experience in therapeutic decision making and management of commonly encountered high-risk drugs. Use of e-learning can complement traditional didactic lectures, particularly in view of the rapid expansion in medical student class size.

Key aims:

- i) To provide training in practical prescribing skills and help medical students and pharmacy students to contextualize pharmacology knowledge via case-based learning.
- ii) To simulate the prescribing experience for students and ensure basic competency in safe prescribing in high risk drugs upon qualification
- iii) To cultivate good habits in prescribing from undergraduate level

The e-learning platform:

Five modules have been created on five high-risk and commonly prescribed drug groups including insulin, anticoagulants, antimicrobials, analgesics and antiarrhythmics. Each module consists of a 10 minute narrated lecture with learning materials and a 10-question interactive quiz based on a case scenario. There are three questions styles, prescribing items, review of prescriptions and multiple choice. The module also features similarities to the Hospital authority electronic prescribing system. The modules are posted on blackboard for students to complete formatively and integrated into the senior medical clerkship and pharmacy curriculum.

Outcomes:

We have had positive feedback from teachers and students on the piloted modules. They have found the module practical and informative. We intend to continue to evaluate the impact of this e-learning resource via student performance in final exams on pharmacology and therapeutics, prescribing performance and feedback from newly qualified medical doctors and pharmacists. We have also linked up with the Hospital Authority quality and safety committee for reciprocal feedback on medication errors. We plan to introduce more e-modules in important therapeutic areas in future.