

National Patient Counseling Competition Toolkit

Advisor Guide

As an advisor of a local APhA-ASP chapter you may be asked to assist in the preparation of the Patient Counseling Competition. There are multiple ways in which you can help your school's competition to be a success such as:

- Developing patient cases for the preliminary and final rounds
- Assist in judging or recruiting judges for both rounds of the competition
- Making announcements about the competition before/after class
- Facilitate the set-up of a mock pharmacy for competition use

Developing Patient Cases

- Preliminary
 - The patient case for the preliminary round is meant to be simple. The focus of this round is to assess the communication skills of each patient. There should not be any issues with the prescription such as interactions or allergies that would contradict the use of the chosen product. There should be no need for the pharmacist to consult the prescriber.
- Final
 - Once participants reach the final round it is appropriate for the patient case to be more complex. Some examples of increasing difficulty include having the pharmacist complete a demonstration or having a prescription for a medication for an uncommon indication. It is also important to note that the patient in this scenario will need to act in a manner where the pharmacist will need to address the concern or sympathize with the patient to ensure they meet the needs of the patient while still relaying the appropriate information. Keep this step in mind when choosing the prescription for this round.

Judging

- As an advisor you may be asked to judge the competition or assist in recruiting judges. It is important to recruit judges who have experience and knowledge of pharmacy practice. Some great options are your New Practitioner Mentors, faculty, or individuals from outside the school's affiliation. It is important to ensure no judge has any sort of bias to or against any of the participants.
- As a judge or facilitator, it is imperative to gather all necessary materials such as the evaluation forms, prescription copies, resource covering each drug's medication information, as well as a copy of the "Instructions for Judges – Preliminary Round" that is available in the NPCC Booklet to provide to each judge. You should be prepared to review all policies and procedures related to the competition and answer any questions which may arise.

Announcements

- Advertising the competition is imperative to its success. As an advisor, you may have more access to different populations of students than APhA-ASP leadership would. It is recommended that you take advantage of this by making announcements regarding the competition before/after classes to generate interest and curiosity in the competition. It may also be helpful to allow time for students to ask questions regarding the process and expectations.

Set-Up

- A mock pharmacy set up is needed to conduct both rounds of the competition. All that is required is a counter and a means for the student to access drug references. However, you may choose to expand the scope of this by including medication bottles, over-the-counter products, etc.