2011 Military Health System Conference

HOSPITAL CORPSMAN UNIVERSITY
From the Classroom to the Bedside

HMCS(FMF/SW/EXW) Michael Holmes, IDC
Naval Hospital Jacksonville
Report Documentation Page

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Mission

- Develop and train Corpsmen in preparation for assignment to our hospital, branch health clinics, operational units and tactical environments within 90 days of assignment to our facility.
Vision

- In conjunction with mission specific, just-in-time-training, the HMU graduate is employable and deployable across the full range of military and clinical operations.
Guiding Principles

- HMU students are:
  - Front-line life savers in training for operational utilization
  - Foundation of Navy Medicine
  - Advocates for patient safety and excellence in healthcare
  - Care extenders for medical and nursing staff through Navy Medicine
Learning Objectives

- Why HMU?
- Review universal training requirements for hospital or clinic-based Hospital Corpsman
- Discuss roles within HMU
- Outline implementation
Welcome to Navy Medicine!

- Imagine you are an 18-year-old Corpsman fresh out of Corps School…
  - Within a week of arrival at your new hospital or clinic you find yourself at a patient’s bedside trying to remember exactly how to take a blood pressure or draw blood which was a skill you learned just a few weeks ago.
Now remember what it was like to RECEIVE that brand new Corpsman to your ward and think, “The Corpsmen coming from Corps School just get smarter and smarter but there is still so much they need to learn…”
Why HMU?

- Started in response to lack of centralized and standardized training
  - Bedside training was conducted at departmental level which meant labor and delivery Corpsmen were not very interchangeable with dermatology Corpsmen
Other benefits to centralized training include:

- Junior Corpsmen can be evaluated, vetted and recommended for potential assignment to high-risk patient care areas such as the ED, L&D and ICU
- In-depth staff orientation to the facility
- Direct oversight of patient care by staff Corpsmen
Why HMU? (cont.)

- Other benefits:
  - Professional relationships with nursing staff promotes a better understanding of patient and family centered care.
  - Side-by-side relationship with nursing staff increases basic understanding of anatomy & physiology, medical terminology, patient assessment and safe medication administration.
HMU also designed to provide all training required by the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Knowledge Online, Individual Augmentee program, Joint Commission standards, and NH Jax
Training Requirements (cont.)

- HMU students are required to complete 39 electronic or classroom based training courses to graduate from the program
- Complete age specific competencies and the eleven part departmental orientation
Roles and Responsibilities

- Senior Enlisted Leadership
  - SELs must accept 60-90 day loss of their prospective gain to allow for HMU
  - SELs universally support high standards of training required in program and widely regard it as a necessary investment of manpower to further develop well rounded Corpsmen capable of working in any environment
Directorate Leadership

- Latitude to direct enlisted manpower is critical across all directorates
- The Director for Nursing Services’ (DNS) engagement in promoting and guiding Nurse Corps involvement.
Roles and Responsibilities (cont.)

- DNS Departmental Leadership
  - The Department Head, Chief and Leading Petty Officer all play crucial roles in directing preceptor assignments and effective scheduling of HMU students
  - Lessons learned are funneled in real-time back to the course director and manager to quickly address concerns
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
  - Act as program advocates for nursing staff as well as preceptors for all HMU students when assigned preceptors are unavailable
  - Orchestrate and often teach Thursday classroom briefs based on input gained from contact with both staff and students
Nursing Staff
- Foundation of effective Corpsmen training in the clinical environment
- Military and civilian nurses alike are utilized and directed to participate as preceptors
Hospital Corps Staff
- Provide insight to nursing staff and students alike as to roles and responsibilities of Hospital Corpsmen
- Crucial member in effective training at bedside
- Often first to “teach one” to the new student
- Provide valuable insight to students on just how to be a Sailor
Implementation

- Human Resources Department (HRD)
  - A key component to the management strategy is limiting visibility of student’s ultimate duty assignment
  - Adding the ability of earning a “choice” assignment based on HMU performance proved beneficial
HRD and HMU management work closely to place the right Corpsman in the right job at the right time

- ED, ICU, L&D, females to OB/GYN -- males to Urology
- HMU provides a manpower source for unanticipated assignments
Clinical Rotations
- Mon-Fri, 0700-1500 and 1500-2300
- Three weeks per department
- Staff Corpsmen who have demonstrated a deficiency in clinical skills can be sent back through the clinical portion of program
Implementation (cont.)

- Personnel Assignments
  - Assign a program champion
  - Assign a program director and program manager
  - Collaborate with CNSs to determine their level of involvement and role
  - Brief Nurses and Corps staff on expectations
- Administrative Requirements
  - List all personnel authorized locally to sign off the HMU book and add to HMSB signature authority memorandum
  - Determine clinical capabilities and how student rotations will fit into them
  - Front load administrative training requirements so as to not interfere with clinical training
  - Talk it up! Frequent and regular promotion of program from top down key to success
Implementation (cont.)

- Classroom Time
  - One, 2-hour session per week
  - Necessary part of advanced training and also promotes a better understanding of advanced concepts learned at bedside
  - Offers students a place to voice questions raised after further study away from bedside
  - CNSs schedule guest lecturers
Medical versus Non-Medical Watches

- HMU students are prohibited from working on command watch standing Personnel Qualification Standards or standing non-medical watches
- HMU students are rotated throughout the hospital as medical assistants assigned weekly
# Sample Non-Clinical Rotation Schedule

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**HMU Rotation Schedule**
Assessments

- Students are tested
  - Baseline
  - Midterms
  - Finals
  - Unit tests
- Graduates are interviewed
- SELs and LCPOs are solicited for feedback for program improvements and internal/external customer needs
Challenges and Pitfalls

- Student drops
- Student does not complete program within allotted 90 days
- Avoid stereotyping students
- SEL/LPO exposure to students
Benefits to the Sailor

- Early intrusive leadership and mentorship
  - Financial counseling
  - Security clearance verification
  - Initial Career Development Board (CDB)
  - NSIPS/ESR, NFAAS access

- Most importantly we promote the ideal of professionalism and teamwork
Benefits to the Department

- Corpsmen report ready for departmental orientation without any interruptions
- Graduates report with all training recorded in FLTMPS/DMHRSI and certificates in hand
- Division Officer training folder is built
- Have a professional Sailor with good working knowledge of our healthcare system
- IMR deployment ready Sailor
Benefits to the Command

- Eight percent increase in customer satisfaction rates command-wide
- Non-Judicial Punishments decreased by 26.1%
- IMR increase of eight percent (FMR)
- Graduated 152 students to date
Positive Patient Care

Our inpatient customer satisfaction rates were 85-90%. Now they remain at or near 100%.

HMU Program Begins
The Way Ahead

- Ownership by DNS versus CPE
- Formal OJT program aims to expound on the Corps School curriculum, not just reinforce it
- Graduation
POC

- **Program Director**
  - HMCS(FMF/SW/EXW) Michael Holmes, IDC
    michael.j.holmes@med.navy.mil
    (904)542-7087

- **Program Manager**
  - HM1(SW) Christy Eads
    christy.eads@med.navy.mil
    (904)542-6546

Course materials may be obtained by sending me an email at:

michael.j.holmes@med.navy.mil