

# Exploring the implementation of a systematic search template in a drug information rotation

## Background

Fourth year pharmacy students on their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations are required to complete a rotation in drug information (DI) and the Center for Drug Information and Evidence-Based Practice at Creighton serves as a rotation site. The varied levels of knowledge and competency of our students at the start of their DI rotation presents the need for more flexible and engaging teaching techniques.

## Objective

In a continued effort to enhance student competence, our goal is to foster an environment of active learning and teaching innovation which will effectively train our student pharmacists to respond to drug information consultations.

## Methodology

Students are given instructions on conducting a systematic search during orientation to the rotation. The systematic search template (SST) was created to guide students through the process of utilizing resources in order to identify the most appropriate evidence needed to answer a DI question. The SST is introduced during orientation and is incorporated into the rotation as follows:

Active Learning Component of Orientation	Guided Writing Tool for DI Consultations
Students receive a DI question during orientation and then develop a search strategy using the SST	Students fill out the SST for each DI question, and discuss their search strategy with a preceptor

The continued use of the SST throughout the rotation is a variation on the teaching technique of the 3 R's:

**Repetition, Reinforcement, and Retention.**

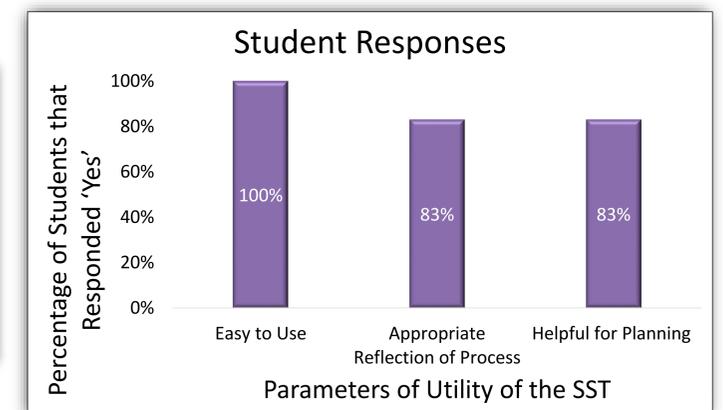
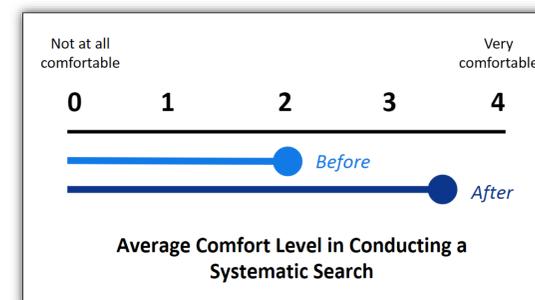
## Process Outcomes

Implementation and assessment of the SST is currently in progress.

Our goal at this stage is to evaluate the usefulness of the template. Students' ability to conduct an efficient and effective systematic search, and to provide comprehensive evidence-based responses will be assessed. Baseline ability will be obtained from DI question responses before introduction of the SST, and this will be compared to responses completed after its implementation. A rubric will be developed to objectively evaluate responses. Students will also be surveyed to assess perceptions of the tool's utility and ease of use.

## Survey Results

Six students from the current rotation rated their comfort level in conducting a systematic search before and after using the SST, and user-friendliness of the SST.



## Implications

The SST will enhance students' ability to effectively answer a DI question. Students will also be more actively engaged in the collaborative writing process, and preceptors may better assess a student's understanding and progress throughout the rotation. Results from this evaluation will be used to make improvements to the SST tool and its implementation. The next step in our assessment research will be to examine the SST's long-term benefit to student learning and performance.