

Workshop 4: Innovation in qualitative pharmaceutical care research

Participant and non-participant observation in pharmaceutical care research

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Purpose

To provide an overview and discussion of the use of observation as a research method in general and in pharmaceutical care research in particular.

(the use of simulated patients was highlighted as an observation method relevant to pharmaceutical care research)

Aims

- To gain an understanding of the use of observation as a research methods and its application to pharmaceutical care research
- To provide an environment where participants can discuss their experience of this method, the strengths and limitations associated with its use
- To develop guidelines for the use of simulated patients in pharmaceutical care/pharmacy practice research.

Content

- Overview and discussion of:
 - qualitative research methods
 - theories relevant to qualitative research
 - the use of observation as a qualitative research method in general, differences between participant and non-participant observation, and of the use of simulated patients

Outcome of Workshop

Guidelines for the use of Simulated Patients (SPs) in Pharmaceutical Care or Pharmacy Practice Research

- Scope for, and suitability of, the use of SPs within pharmacy research
- Legal and Ethical Principles
- Selection of the SP
- Recruitment (how to select an SP)
- Training of SP
- Quality Assurance

