Development of a Sustainment Training Course for 68Q Pharmacy Technicians

Mitchell Nazario, COL, USAR, MS; Rene Jacob, COL, USAR, SP

Background:
Many Pharmacy Technicians (68Q) in the Army Reserves (AR) do not work as Pharmacy Technicians in their civilian lives and their pharmacy related knowledge and skills are limited to training received during weekend battle assemblies.

Objective:
The objective of this program is to develop a core curriculum of sustainment training for 807th Medical Command Deployment Support (MCDS) Pharmacy Technicians, to be offered at RTS-MED in Ft. McCoy, WI, in order to sustain the knowledge, skills and proficiency of AR Pharmacy Technicians.

Methods:
Surveying the Field:
The Pharmacy Technicians of ten CSHs and Medical Units under the 807th MCDS were surveyed in order to develop a core curriculum that would meet their sustainment training needs. The yearly course will be based on the needs assessment feedback received from the 68Qs, RTS-MED course offerings, and logistical requirements.

Key Elements
The 807th MCDS provides the annual 68Q MOS Sustainment Course. The purpose of the course is to sustain the technical skills of the Pharmacy Specialist (68Q) with a focus on pharmacy operations, clinical pharmacology, pharmaceutical calculations, ISO training and set-up. Successful completion of this course will provide students with a certificate of training for 40 hours of training, and BLS certification.

Concept of Operations:
Integrate the 68Q development cycle within the ARFORGEN model In Order To (IOT) provide relevant MOS sustainment and validation training to Pharmacy Specialists across the command.

Methods (cont’d):
Key Tasks
- TR1 Units conduct a 7-day 68Q sustainment course, 2 per year.
- TR1/Reset Units prepare roster of 68Qs for attendance at 7 day 68Q sustainment course.
- Coordination with RTS-MED and Fort McCoy Installation Management Command for all training and support requirements.
- TR2/TR3 unit 68Qs who need to refresh/sustain their pharmacy skills may also attend the sustainment training.
- TR1 Units provide two 67Es for Clinical instruction.
- TR1 Units provide one 68Q (SSG or above) to serve as NCOIC for each rotation.

Training Startup
- The 330th MED BDE is in TR1 of their ARFORGEN cycle and will provide the first group for 68Q sustainment training during FY15.

End State:
All 68Q’s receive the 7 day sustainment and validation training prior to completion of TR1. 68Qs continue to develop and sustain MOS specific skills to support unit Pharmacy Service needs and deployment requirements.

Future Directions:
- Integrate “hands-on” Pharmacy Tech training at a local Army Medical Treatment Facility or VA Medical Facility.
- Process CE Credits for the 68Qs that are Certified Pharmacy Technicians.

The 807th MC (DS) supports 5 Medical BDEs with 10 CSHs among which 20 Pharmacy Officers (67E) and 118 Pharmacy Technicians (68Q) are distributed.

Mitchell Nazario, PharmD, CPE is a Clinical Pain Specialist and Residency Program Director for the PGY2 Pain & Palliative Care Residency Program at the West Palm Beach VAMC. COL Mitchell Nazario is the 807th Command Pharmacy Consultant.

Rene Jacob, MBA, RD, LD is the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program Manager at the STVHCS, San Antonio, Texas. COL Rene Jacob is the 807th Command Dietetic Consultant.