



Medical Students' Elective Feedback Report

(June 2018 - June 2019)

Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) facilitates and provides an opportunity for international medical students to do their elective placement every year. MTC accepts the medical students that are in pre-final and final year of their medical school. The elective takes place for four to six weeks. Students undertaking placements at the clinic will rotate through the various departments in 1 week blocks such as Medical Adult Outpatient/Inpatient Department, Reproductive Health Outpatient/Inpatient Department, Surgical Outpatient Department, and Child Health Outpatient/Inpatient Department. In the period of June 2018 to June 2019, there were (44) students doing their medical elective at the Mae Tao Clinic. This elective program is organized by the Administration and HR Team with the support of the health team and Clinical Consultants

Every medical student is asked to fill the feedback form after completing their elective at MTC. There are four parts of the feedback; elective experience, knowledge or skills gained, challenges, and comments or suggestions for the elective program. The feedback summary of this period can be seen below.

Elective Experience

In general, students have got an enjoyable and wonderful experience when they were doing their medical elective at Mae Tao Clinic. Students described that the staff here are welcoming and friendly. Students felt part of the team because the staff allowed them to involve in sharing various medical knowledge and skills to help with patient care and treatment plans. Also, students got a chance to involve in teaching Continuous Medical Education (CME) for the medics and nurses-aids during their elective. Students have seen many interested cases and learned how to treat area specific diseases like malnutrition, worm infections, dengue and diarrhea that are not commonly seen in their countries. By the support of the medics' knowledge, students had an opportunity to know how diagnosis and diseases can be treated and managed with limited resource.

Knowledge or skills gained

Based on the students' enthusiastic learning and observation, they have learned how to approach the provision of healthcare in a resource limited environment, and the importance of accurate history taking and clinical examination. Students have improved communication skills, physical examination skills, and history taking skills and they are better able to find clinical signs. During the students' elective at MTC, they have gained a better knowledge of patients' culture and the situation of health care provision along the Thai-Burma Border.

Challenges

The students experienced cultural and language barriers, because the common language spoken at the clinic is Myanmar and ethnic languages. Many of the medics speak good English and help the students with translation but some speak little English. Sometimes, students found difficulties to communicate with a patient when the medic who speaks good English is not available. Students are unfamiliar with the management of some condition at the clinic and it was challenging for them to manage cases due to limited resources and investigation. Sometimes, it was difficult for the students to integrate into the team and understand the work flow of the staff at their first day of medical elective in the department.

Comments/Suggestions

Medical Students found that the elective program was very fantastic and awesome. They were happy of getting this elective opportunity at the Mae Tao Clinic. The medical student package provided to students was very helpful with the valuable information of the clinic, elective program and Mae Sot in general. According to the rotation schedule board, students suggested that it would be easier to use if it was organized by name and date, to know who was in what department and avoiding doubling up. Students gave an advice that it would be great if the clinic could provide the common disease list at the clinic as they could read up before arriving. Students requested that it would be a good opportunity for them to study one or two days at the Laboratory Department. Medical students would like to be more involved in teaching and training for example in CME.

Action plan

- We plan to update and change the student schedule rotation board organized by name, week, and date to avoid doubling up.
- Adjust the presentation and add the information related visa issues and security
- To discuss with Laboratory in charge or Health team for the request of medical students to study in laboratory room.
- Plan to update the student info pack with some updated information (e.g. accommodation, top ten disease, and others)

Medical Students came from the universities below.

- University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- University of Liverpool, UK
- University of East Anglia, UK
- University of Milan, Italy
- Chang Gung University, Taiwan
- Plymouth University England, UK
- Texas A&M College of Medicine, USA
- Bond University, Australia
- University at Buffalo, USA
- Arizona State University, USA
- Kings College London, UK
- Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, USA
- Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
- University of Edinburgh, UK
- Cardiff University School of Medicine, UK
- University of Oxford, UK
- University College London, UK
- Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- University of Birmingham in the UK
- University of Sheffield Medical School, UK
- University of Newcastle, UK
- University of Glasgow, UK
- UMC Utrecht, Netherland