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Internship Training of Medical Laboratory Technician Students at the Faculty of Medicine

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Abstract: The internship period of the students enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Techniques Associate Degree Program starts when they come to the second year. Students complete their internships in the 3rd and 4th semesters after completing their 1st and 2nd semester courses and succeeding their courses. Students enrolled in the "Medical Laboratory Techniques Associate Degree Program" can do their internship in the "Clinical Microbiology Laboratory", "Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory", "Pathology Laboratory" and "Hematology Laboratory" and each of them for at least 4 weeks. Training and Research Hospitals, Education and Research Hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health that provide Specialization Training in Medicine, and Full-Fledged State Hospitals. This study is the data obtained by observing students who do their internship in 4 different units in the research and practice hospital both in the fall and spring terms. Therefore, the establishment of the medical laboratory technician program within the Health Services Vocational School (Vocational School) in universities with research and application hospitals is extremely important in terms of the quality and functioning of the program. In this study, the educational internships of the students enrolled in this program at the medical faculty were examined.

Keywords: Internship, Medical Laboratory, Vocational School, Healthservices

Introduction

Laboratory technicians who are obliged to perform analyzes deemed necessary by doctors or engineers in health institutions or factories, especially in hospitals; They are the technical staff responsible for the functioning of the methods and devices used in clinical and other research laboratories and for the analysis (Beydağ et al., 2008). They perform various analyzes in clinical biochemistry, microbiology, pathology and genetics laboratories. Graduates of the laboratory department in the health vocational high schools can choose the medical laboratory technician department in the health vocational schools affiliated with the universities and start working as laboratory technicians. There is no certification program to become a laboratory technician. Some of the theoretical courses are taken practically at the college or affiliated medical faculties. The department in health vocational schools consists of 2-year associate degree education. Laboratory technicians have special responsibilities (Gayef & Sarıkaya, 2012). The job scope of laboratory technicians who need to have high concentrations because their working environments contain chemicals are as follows:

- a. To be responsible for the pre-use controls of test devices and tools in the laboratory,
- b. To prepare samples to be used for experiments, analyzes and tests,
- c. To prepare the necessary physical conditions for testing solid or liquid samples to be analyzed,
- d. Performing the desired experiments, tests and analyzes,
- e. To report the results of experiments, tests and analysis,
- f. Recording the findings in written or digital form,

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- g. To be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of laboratory tools and equipment.
- h. To assist experts and doctors in their research.

In the laboratory technician program; Theoretical training on subjects such as Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Genetics, Hematology, Endocrine is required. In addition to these, it is based on the training of people who respect patient rights within the scope of medical ethics. Students who graduate from the program; In the vertical transfer exams, they can focus on departments such as biology, nursing and health services and complete their education as a graduate (Kazu and Demirli 200).

Students who successfully complete the above-mentioned theoretical courses in both semesters of the first year have to see the applications of these courses in both semesters of the second year. For this reason, it is important for the quality of education that students who study this department prefer universities with research and practice hospitals. They will be able to make the applications of the theoretical lessons they have taken in their first years in a fully-fledged research hospital much more comprehensive and instructive. It was observed that the students who received their internship training at the medical faculty hospital had a much better level of knowledge and skills after graduation (Güluda and et al., 2010). In this program, technical staff are trained on the functioning of the methods and devices used in clinical and other research laboratories, and the analysis. Graduates are not authorized to work individually and have the opportunity to find jobs in private health or public institutions. Employment rates of the students who received this training in the medical faculty were much better in private hospitals. In terms of experience, skill and patient potential, the reason for the student to be preferred is how many analyzes and samples he has seen (Karasar, 2019).

Method

The internship studies of the medical laboratory program students in the laboratories of the Faculty of Medicine of the universities with Research and Application Hospital were collected with the observation technique. This study was prepared by asking the opinions and experiences of the internship instructors related to the qualitative research results.

Internship and Training Practice Rules in Health Services Vocational Schools

In general, the Health Services Vocational School Internship and Education Implementation Boards consist of Heads of Departments and Teaching Staff in Programs under the chairmanship of the Director or Deputy Director and convene at least twice a year. Vocational School Internship and Education Implementation Board may establish program internship commissions in programs and units it deems necessary. The purpose of these committees is to determine the principles of the printed documents to be used in the internship and to organize them to be ready, to ensure the coordination of student internships and the execution of internship studies by the Programs.

Internship committees are formed on the basis of programs, and the internship guidelines to be applied in the Medical Laboratory program are decided by the rates established on the basis of the program. In this context, we can list the duties of the Program Internship Commission as follows;

- a) Program internship principles and scope, internship book and internship report writing principles and internship preparing evaluation procedures.
- b) The status of the student who has applied for internship in terms of the program internship principles to decide whether he has the right to do an internship by evaluating.
- c) Among the students who have the right to do internship, those who have found the internship place themselves, will find the place of work they recommend to decide whether it is appropriate.
- d) To prepare two “Workplace Internship Evaluation Forms” for students who are accepted as internship places.
- e) Provide guidance in the preparation of internship notebooks and internship reports for students who are accepted to do internships to show and prepare the Internship Guide,

Medical Laboratory Program Internship Supervision

Health Services from the instructor/s in the Program Internship Commission Assigned by the Vocational School Directorate.

- a. In addition to his duties in the Program Internship Commission, he is the first person the student will contact and to be in one-to-one communication with the student.
- b. Guiding the student during the internship process and the internship delivered by the student check your paperwork.
- c. Student's problems related to internship Vocational School Internship and Education Application to forward it to the board.

Results and Discussion

The qualitative research was obtained as a result of the follow-up and observations of the 2018 fall and spring semester internships in the biochemistry, m, microbiology, blood bank and pathology departments of the Gaziantep University Research and Application Hospital central laboratory. It has been reported by both the faculty members and the students in charge of the internship that the alternating internships consisting of at least 6 weeks in 4 different (Biochemistry, Microbiology, Blood bank and Pathology) units of the Central Laboratory are quite productive.

The variety of devices and personnel of research hospitals within universities is extremely wide. The contribution of the internship training taken under the supervision of experienced staff and teachers in these hospitals to the knowledge and experience of the student is quite high. The wide range of equipment and equipment available in these research hospitals and their accessibility by students during internship training increase efficiency. In addition, the fact that they have received internship training under the supervision of senior and equipped technicians in the laboratories of research hospitals as well as assistants who are experts in medicine adds a serious efficiency and quality to their trainers.

The relevant internship program officers are responsible for the regulation of the supervision of the students who will do internship in the medical laboratory program and all information and coordination regarding which units they will stay for how long. Internship opportunities, which differ according to the infrastructure and equipment in the units of the central laboratories within the medical faculty hospital, unfortunately cannot be carried out with the same curriculum and content in Health Services Vocational Schools throughout Turkey (www.mevzuat.gov.tr).

Conclusion

In the medical laboratory sector, laboratories belonging to private and public institutions are increasing day by day. In the past years, since there were no personnel with Medical Laboratory training in these departments, they were recruited from high school graduates or from departments such as Chemistry and Biology. However, private institutions now prefer people who can work in their workplaces with lower wages than 4-year graduates, and especially those who have 2-year Medical Laboratory training. The fact that a large percentage of the graduates of the Medical Laboratory department find a job in this field confirms this situation. Therefore, this department and its graduates are expected to be more valuable in the future. Therefore, the efficiency of the internships that the students studying in this program have done in order to gain experience is extremely important. As a result, we care about and support the value that internships done in full-fledged research hospitals add to trained staff.

Scientific Ethics Declaration

The authors declare that the scientific ethical and legal responsibility of this article published in EPHELS journal belongs to the authors.

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