

Use of e-portfolios in Continuing Professional Development and Pharmacy Education in the USA

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Continuing Professional Development (CPD) encourages life-long learning as a way to maintain professional competency in pharmacy. CPD is a self-directed, ongoing, systematic and outcomes-focused approach to lifelong learning that is applied into practice. It involves the process of active participation in formal and informal learning activities that assist in developing and maintaining competence, enhancing professional practice, and supporting achievement of career goals. The CPD approach is cyclical in nature where each stage of the process can be recorded in a personal learning portfolio. Documentation of each stage in the CPD cycle in a personal portfolio can support reflection and evaluation and provide evidence of the work involved to others (e.g. employers, professors, regulatory agencies). The portfolio should be simple to use, readily accessible, and developed over time into a comprehensive record of learning experiences which acts as an ongoing tool for review and self-evaluation. Ideally a standardized format such as an e-portfolio which aggregates digitally all aspects of the CPD cycle and provides evidence of a person's learning should be utilized. This presentation will discuss the principles of CPD and how e-portfolios can be used to document all aspects of the CPD cycle. The elements that should be included in a CPD e-portfolio will also be discussed.

