

# Pharm. D. Experiential Training in Hospitals - Evolution of the 4-week clerkship of exposure to hospital practice in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Université de Montréal

Jean-François Bussières<sup>1,2</sup>, Anis Ouyahia<sup>2</sup>, Pascale Meunier<sup>2</sup>, Ema Ferreira<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Unité de recherche en pratique pharmaceutique, Département de pharmacie, CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal, Québec, Canada

<sup>2</sup> Faculté de pharmacie, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada



Faculté de pharmacie  
Université de Montréal

## Background

- As part of the entry-level doctorate in pharmacy (Pharm.D.), students must complete a 4-week clerkship in a healthcare center at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- During the pandemic, in 2020, the first week of clerkship was transitioned to a virtual training surrounding the medication circuit. It was continued in 2021 and 2022.
- In 2023, the clerkship returned to a 4-week face-to-face format, to meet accreditation standards.



## Goals

- Describe the conversion process for the first week of the clerkship related to the drug circuit from virtual to face-to-face format and its improvements.

## Description

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> second-year clerkship is carried out in a health-care center, 5 days per week for 4 weeks under the supervision of a clinical pharmacist (Fig.1).
- The first week of the clerkship is aimed at the drug circuit (Fig.2). A list of the 143 steps of the circuit is provided to students.
- Students complete a portfolio that includes a learning contract, a success plan, a table of activities, an assessment tool and a logbook.
- The 7-pages logbook was developed to support the various learning activities in different formats and locations (Fig.3). The themes were:
  - Pharmacy department visit,
  - Organization of the department,
  - Medication use and prescription rules,
  - Roles and responsibilities of the pharmacist and of the technical staff in distribution services, drug management, clinical research and Special Access Program,
  - Care pathway, medication circuit on the care unit, roles and responsibilities of the pharmacist on the care unit,
  - Quality and risk management.

- Eight videos of the previous virtual experience were kept for mandatory viewing.
- The virtual platform was updated with a selection of relevant optional videos and documents.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the clerkship, a virtual integration activity in the form of a virtual web panel (4 pharmacy managers) was implemented (Fig.4). Each student was required to formulate a question relating to the medication circuit for a 2-hour virtual zoom panel with all students and 3-4 pharmacist managers. Sample questions include:
  - If the automated system cause a medication error, who is at fault?
  - What are the differences in the inspection process for hospital and community pharmacy?
  - What is Vanessa's Law?
  - How can we secure the access to narcotics on the healthcare units?

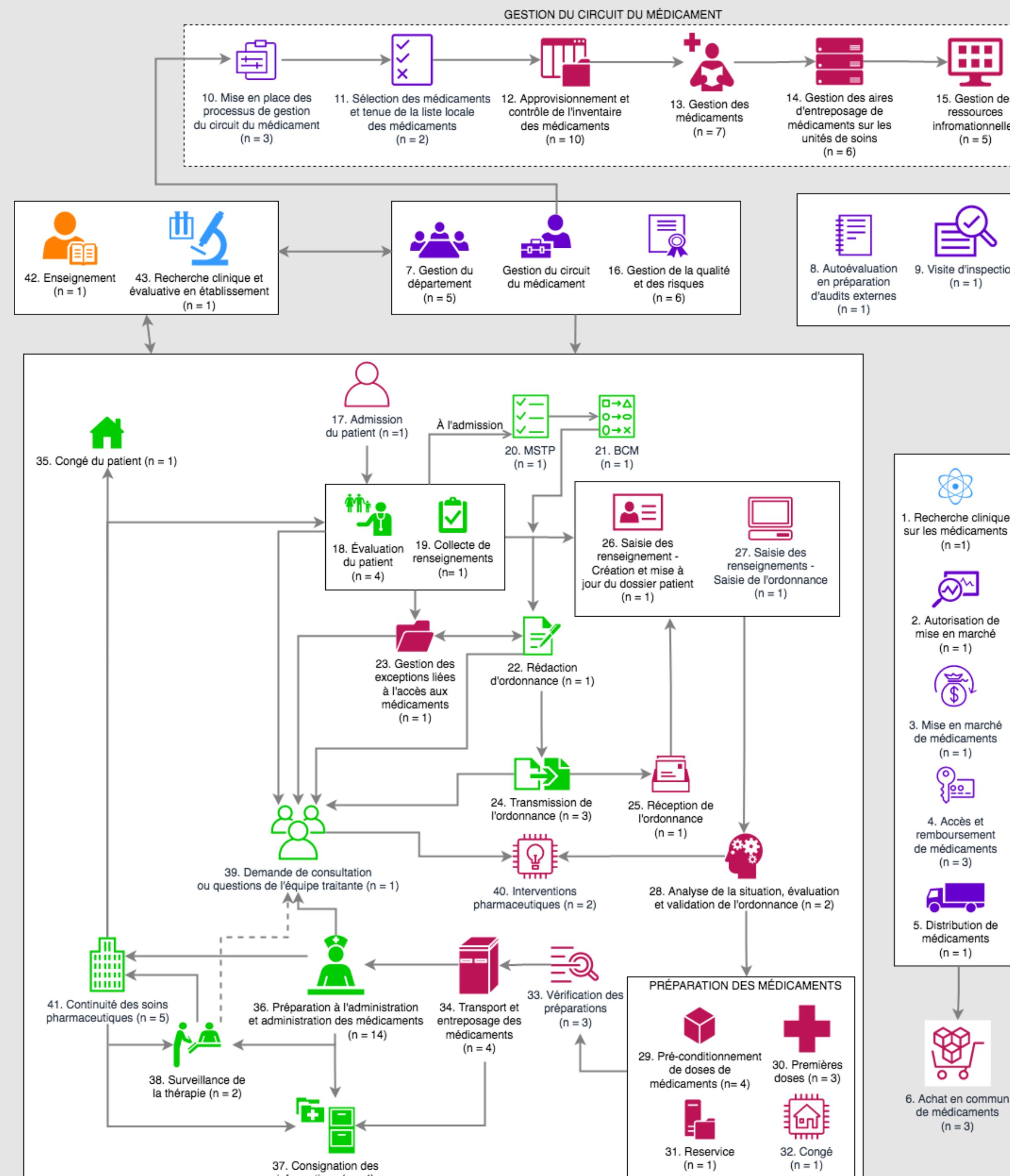


Fig. 2 Representation of the medication circuit in a hospital setting.  
Source : Bussières et al., Pharmactuel 2021;54(2)

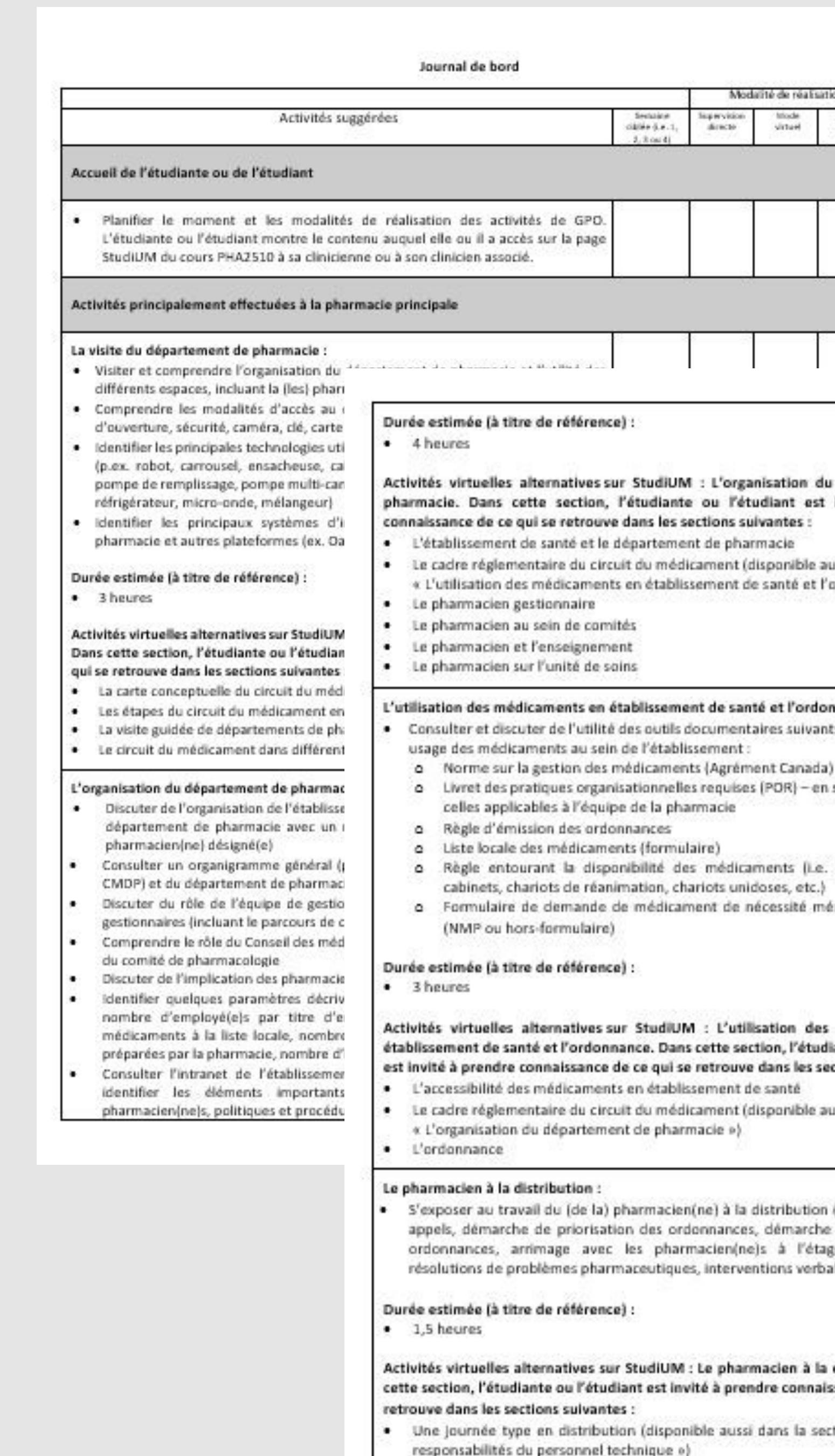


Fig. 3 Logbook used by students

Clerkships	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year
Community (20 weeks)	PHA1510 (4 weeks)			PHA4510T (8 weeks) PHA4520T (8 weeks)
Healthcare center (16 weeks)			PHA2510 (4 weeks)	PHA4530 (8 weeks) PHA4540 (4 weeks)
Optional theme (4 weeks)				PHA4550 (4 weeks)

Fig. 1 Overview of the Pharm.D. clerkships  
PHA1510 is a prerequisite to the PHA2510 clerkship

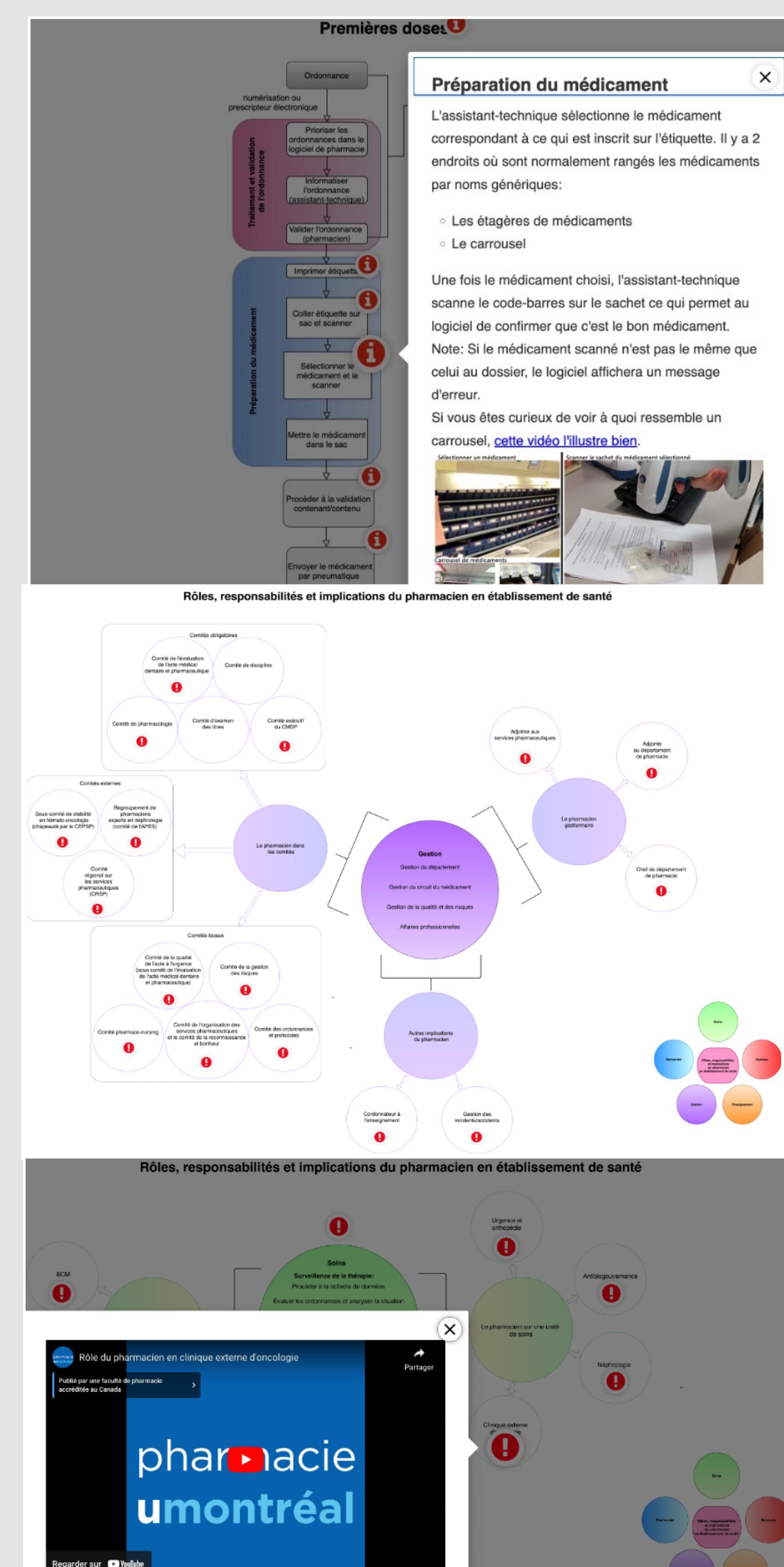


Fig. 4 Screenshots from a virtual activity

## Effectiveness of the initiative

- The gains made during the COVID 19 pandemic (e.g. standardization of exposure to the practice through the design and production of videos from different hospital environments) have enabled the development of a logbook encouraging all hospitals to provide higher-quality exposure to the drug circuit, taking into account their local particularities.
- Four groups completed their clerkship from May to August 2023 and were very satisfied with the experience.
- Students appreciated the tools and the hybrid exposure to the drug circuit.

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