MyDispense is an online pharmacy simulation tool that allows students to practice dispensing in a safe environment.

The system is designed to allow users to build knowledge, improve cognitive proficiency and develop professional values and attitudes.

MYDISPENSE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 2010, MyDispense has had a significant impact on teaching at Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. To date Monash students have completed over 146,000 dispensing exercises.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Since 2013 Monash has worked with international partners to make MyDispense available to other schools of pharmacy. In 2014 a strong collaboration with schools of pharmacy in the USA was established. The universities of Connecticut and California San Francisco worked with the Monash team to create a version tailored to dispensing practice in the USA, which was released in April 2014. Since then the use of MyDispense has grown enormously with the system now being used in over 80 schools of pharmacy at the time of writing, and over 630,000 exercises completed by students all over the world.
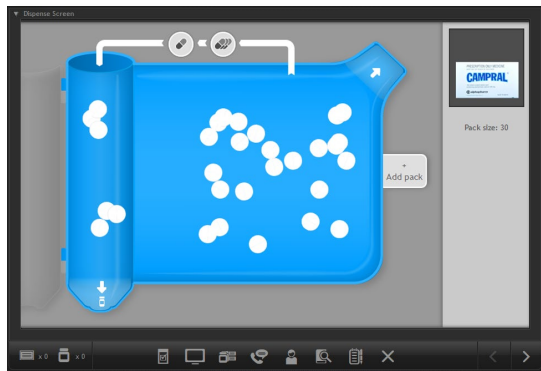
The first MyDispense Global Symposium was held in July 2016. Engagement in the symposium was exceptional with attendees from 16 countries. This is a testament to the philosophy of sharing and collaboration that we value at Monash University and that sharing resources can have huge benefits, not only for students, who would not normally have access to an advanced teaching tool, but also in the building of active communities who are working together to expand the system and also create innovative content and assessments.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

MyDispense simulates a community pharmacy, where students are able to practise dispensing of prescription medicines and also the supply, and provision of advice,

on self-care medications. Students undertake discrete exercises, where each exercise is a single patient presenting with either a prescription or self-care requirement. In addition students can be challenged with another type of exercise, which involves validating a number of prescriptions, to check them for accuracy, legality and medicine safety.

In the latest version, it is possible to create 'scenarios', where many exercises are grouped together and delivered within a time limit. Scenarios can contain the routine task of checking of the work of other professionals (such as pharmacy technicians) and will also have interrruptions (face to face and telephone) from colleagues, prescribers and pateints. Thus students will be required to develop time and task management skills in order to satifactorily complete a scenario.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

MyDispense has a comprehensive database of patients, prescribers and medications and is supplied with the following resources:

- 43 prescribers
- 425 patients
- over 1800 prescription medications
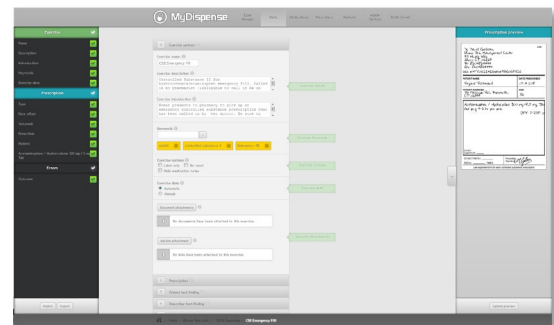- 282 OTC medications.

You can also add your own assets and customise the existing ones, for example, change the addresses of patients to reflect your locality.

In addition there are many pre-existing exercises that have been designed by pharmacy educators.

WILL IT SUPPORT MY CURRICULUM?

The existing exercises should fit into many curricula since they cover basic dispensing practice. However, all of the exercises can be edited to change any of the parameters.

An easy to use instructor interface makes it very straightforward to create your own exercises

WHAT IS THE COST?

MyDispense is free of charge and always will be.

WHAT IT SUPPORT IS REQUIRED?

Some IT support is required during the set up process. This is to create an address for your MyDispense instance and also to hook into your Single Sign On system if you have one. For day-to-day running, IT support at your end is not required. You would need to nominate a local administrator to look after the enrolment of students into MyDispense and to manage the delivery of exercises, but this is not a time-consuming role at all. Your teaching staff would have 'instructor' access to the system which allows them to create and manage exercises.

HOW DO I DOWNLOAD IT?

No need to download, MyDispense is a hosted service. We (Monash) would set up a dedicated instance of the system in the 'Cloud' for you. You would then manage your own instance from that point.