MeSHing with Rounds: Question Topics Asked of a Clinical Librarian
Kristen DeSanto, MSLS, MS, RD, AHIP and Emily Petersen, 2017 MLIS Candidate & Intern
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Health Sciences Library, Education and Reference Department

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this poster is to demonstrate which topics are most frequently encountered by a clinical librarian during patient care rounds with a physician team.

METHODS: The clinical librarian has participated in patient care rounds since August 2015. Rounds take place with Internal Medicine teams, including attending physicians, residents, and medical students, for patients at a 620-bed teaching hospital in an urban setting. Questions answered by the clinical librarian from August 2015 through June 2016 were assigned relevant MeSH® terms (Medical Subject Headings, from the National Library of Medicine) according to the main topics being addressed. Multiple MeSH® terms could be assigned to a single question. MeSH® terms were then aggregated to determine frequency of each term, as well as frequency of the broader categories of the MeSH® hierarchy under which the terms fell.

RESULTS: Forty-three rounding sessions were attended over a ten-month period. One hundred eighty-two discrete questions were asked of the clinical librarian throughout these sessions, and 314 MeSH® terms were identified (including duplicates) based on these questions. Most frequently encountered terms included “Clostridium difficile,” “Hepatitis, Alcoholic,” and “Pancreatitis.” When analyzed by broadest MeSH® categories, as expected the “Diseases Category” and “Chemicals and Drugs Category” accounted for 75% of the terms, so these two were further analyzed by narrower categories.

CONCLUSION: For clinical librarians who are participating in patient care rounds, or those interested in starting such a service, they may more frequently encounter questions related to diseases (particularly diseases of the digestive system, nervous system, or cardiovascular system) and drugs (especially anticoagulants, platelet aggregation inhibitors, glucocorticoids, anti-bacterial agents, and analgesics).

**Diseases Category**
- Digestive System Diseases 22.4%
- Nervous System Diseases 15.8%
- Cardiovascular Diseases 12.7%
- Respiratory Tract Diseases 8.5%
- Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases 7.6%
- Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms 6.1%
- Hemic and Lymphatic Diseases 6.1%
- Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases 4.2%

**Chemicals and Drugs Category**
- Chemicals and Drugs 22%
- Other 23%

**Unique MeSH Terms**
- Anticoagulants 26%
- Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors 12%
- Glucocorticoids 12%
- Anti-Bacterial Agents 12%
- Analgesics 12%
- Immunologic Factors 7%
- Vitamins 5%
- Proton Pump Inhibitors 5%
- Hypoglycemic Agents 5%
- Antihypertensive Agents 5%

**Chemicals and Drugs**
- Anticoagulants 5%
- Hypoglycemic Agents 5%
- Proton Pump Inhibitors 5%
- Vitamins 5%
- Analgesics 12%
- Anti-Bacterial Agents 12%
- Glucocorticoids 12%
- Immunologic Factors 7%
- Antihypertensive Agents 5%

**Diseases**
- Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases ≤ 2.4%
  - Neoplasms
  - Musculoskeletal Diseases
  - Male Urogenital Diseases
  - Immune System Diseases
  - Endocrine System Diseases
  - Chemically-Induced Disorders
  - Bacterial Infections and Mycoses

Unique MeSH Terms
- Alcoholic Hepatitis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Clostridium difficile
- Pancreatitis
- Systemic Scleroderma