Table 2 Illustrative quotes to support main themes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Illustrative quote |
| **The Vx learning environment** Safe environment Benefits with hindsight | *“It was quite a safe environment to say what you think and to look at what other people think without any comeback.” (Pharmacist 8)*“*I think it took up more time than we were expecting it to take up* [during the MPharm course] *and I think that was why I hated it, but actually looking back on it, it was a really good way of learning ...”* (PRT2) |
| The technology:User-friendly and intuitiveNeed time to get used to it | *“I think it was very user-friendly, I think the interface was really nice* […] *I think it was just very useful, easy to manoeuvre...”* (PRT7)*“The problem with it is it’s not always the most user-friendly* […] *I don’t think I started to get the benefit from it until quite a lot later, until I got quite used to using it.”* (PRT2) |
| **Learning and reflection**Deep approach to learning | *“It did make me think a lot deeper into the scenario. Rather than just like face value of, ‘oh I think this is what I would like to do’.”* (PRT5) |
| Approaches to decision-making:Consider other’s views/perspectivesReflective approachWeigh up pros and cons | *“So it would allow you to kind of see from their perspective where they were coming from. So that was quite useful I think. Yes, so rather than having a blinkered view, you could at least – even if you didn’t agree with somebody - have a look and see what they were thinking about.”* (Pharmacist 3)*“…it just taught me to think about things a little bit more, not just to rush my decisions.* […] *to just look at the bigger picture and to take everything I can into consideration, and not just focus on one aspect of it.”* (Pharmacist 6)*“So we have to weigh out the pros and cons of the decisions that we make and how they might impact – not just us, but the patient first.”* (Pharmacist 6) |
| Exposure to cases in preparation for practiceTiming not reflective of dealing with dilemmas in real life but additional time necessary | *“… it’s important to make sure you learn everything first, so I’d rather have the time to learn it, rather than just doing it quickly* [completing a case onValues Exchange™] *‘cos I wanna think about everything.”* (PRT3) |
| **Potential enhancements for learning:**A blended approach to teaching | “*… so whether you did turn it into real life debates so then people can you know, they have to do it online but then, if people want to voice their opinions out loud then they can do, and then it gets a bit more engaging and a bit more active.”* (Pharmacist 4)  |
| Resolution of cases | *“Some examples of some interesting and challenging cases and how they were resolved in practice might be useful, as there are no right or wrong ways of answering some of these difficult problems.”* (Pharmacist 3) |