Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice

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Adult-Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Fellowship for the Veterans Administration

Date: July 11, 2019
Time: 4:20pm
Place: College of Nursing Building, Room 106

Abstract

Problem  Nurse practitioner (NP) fellowship programs assist the novice NP in transitioning from a traditional nursing role to advanced practice. The Veteran’s Health Administration (VHA) utilizes a NP primary care fellowship program. An acute care fellowship may assist with role transition, confidence and competence for acute care NPs. The purpose of this evidence-based pilot project was to develop a transition to practice acute care fellowship program at a Midwestern VHA hospital.

Methods  A prospective, descriptive design utilizing a convenience sample of senior adult-geriatric nurse practitioner (AGNP) students during a pilot study of an acute care fellowship program. Outcome measures included evaluation of skills interpreting electrocardiograms (ECG), chest x-rays (CXR), and self-reported confidence in performing these skills over the initial six-week period of the 12-month program.

Results  There were three participants (N=3, 100%). There was a 33% increase in self-reported confidence of readiness to practice at completion of the pilot. However, ECG scores decreased 66% and CXR interpretation scores decreased 33%. There were two (n=2) participants who met the expected level of correct interpretations at 50%, but one (n=1) did not.

Implications  Despite training and targeted clinical experiences in ECG and CXR interpretations during an acute care fellowship, competence in these skills decreased while self-reported confidence increased at the end of six-weeks. Continued education and training throughout the 12-month program is recommended to increase the novice NP’s competence in these skills while transitioning to their new role.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Dr. Laura Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN- Chairperson
Dr. Tonya Haynes, DNP, RN- Committee Member
Dr. Patty Hendrickson, DNP, RN, CPHQ- Committee Member