Enhancing Clinical Experiences for Student Nurse Practitioners

Institute of Medicine
Identifies the need to improve nursing education systems.

2011

National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education
Declares that NP faculty may share the clinical teaching and supervision of students with qualified preceptors.

2016

National Organization of NP Faculties (NONPF) and the American Association of NPs (AANP)
Collaboratively develop checklists to improve the relationship between NP faculty and clinical preceptors.

2018

The checklists outline the roles and expectations of clinical preceptors, NP faculties, and NP students in successful clinical experiences to improve nursing education and advance the nursing profession.

Features of the checklists

- Evidence-based suggestions to improve relations between members of the clinical communication triad
- Based on shared goals of NP faculties and clinical preceptors
- Standardized procedure for establishing and evaluating student clinical experiences

Categories

- Establishing clinical rotation
- Orientation
- Clinical experience
- Communication
- Evaluation
- Completion of clinical rotation

Expectations of faculty from preceptors

- Reviewing the NP program policies, guidelines, course documents, and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and communicating with the student
- Discussing student's background and course requirements, orientation to clinical site policies, outlining tasks, and developing a plan for student progression
- Modeling skills, observing student activities, verifying clinical hours, and fostering student growth by encouraging reflection on feedback and collaboration
- Mentoring the student through clinical experiences, feedback, and face-to-face meetings
- Completing evaluation formalities, constructively discussing feedback, developing a plan for improvement, and collaborating with faculty
- Submitting documents as outlined in the course

Expectations of preceptors from faculty

- Communicating necessities with the preceptor, sending all pertinent course documents, discussing course requirements, and providing clinical paperwork
- Providing contact information, discussing plan for site visits, and offering teaching strategies to the preceptor
- Assuming primary responsibility for the student, checking if student progression meets academic requirements, connecting knowledge gaps, and verifying student hours
- Openly communicating with preceptor about student performance and progression and scheduling site visits
- Reviewing preceptors evaluation of the student, discussing feedback with the student, and initiating remedial plans based on evaluations as needed
- Reviewing the final student evaluation, discussing preceptor feedback and providing thank you letter to be used for recertification

The full article is available here: A checklist for faculty and preceptor to enhance the nurse practitioner student clinical experience

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