

APRN Legislative Issues:

Nurse Practitioners are the Answer to the Primary Care Shortage

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Objectives

- At the completion of the session, the audience will be able to relate a unique approach to educating legislators/policy-makers about the role of nurse practitioners as the solution to the primary care shortage, emphasizing their roles in the medical home model.
 - Review ways to immerse NP students in legislative arena
 - Identify strategies for introducing role of NPs and practice issues to legislators
 - Evaluate impact of NP role in state and federal efforts



Institute of Medicine Report

- IOM report on the *Future of Nursing* catapulted NPs to the fore
- Role in primary care essential
- Role in facilitating access to care
- Staying in under-served areas to provide primary care



NP Role in Legislative Process

- Federal or state/local
 - Essential issues to address
 - Credentialing
 - Reimbursement
 - Health Care reform
 - Patient-Centered medical home



NPs in Legislative World

- Widespread lack of knowledge, fear of getting involved in policy/legislation
- Unaware of issues that affect our practice
- NPs not considered part of solution to primary care shortage
- NPs not included in demonstration projects
 - Patient centered medical home
 - Pay for Performance



Other Major Issues

- Lack of provider-neutral language in federal statutes, Medicare
 - Home health
 - Buprenorphine
 - Incident to billing
- Credentialing parity
- Reimbursement parity



Other Issues

- Legislators have no idea who we are!
 - We need to clearly articulate what we are and what we do.
 - Need to clarify how we provide excellent primary care
 - Educate, educate!



Student Involvement

- Need to immerse from beginning
 - Role modeling
 - Grassroots activities
 - Role synthesis class
 - Great place to illustrate role
 - Require them to participate
 - State board of nursing
 - State nurses' association



University of Maryland School of Nursing's (UMSON) Response

- Brainstormed educational session for local/state legislators and policy-makers
- Planned a one day event at SON
- Purpose
 - Highlight what APRNs do in health care
 - Illustrate sophistication of educational preparation
 - Demonstrate NPs' ability provide primary care, to manage medical home



UMSON's One Day Event

- Involved all APRN faculty
- Collaborations with all administrators, campus president
- All specialties involved
 - ANP/GNP
 - FNP
 - Psych/MH
 - Peds
 - ACNP
 - CRNA



Curriculum

- Goal—highlight APRN role and have participants role play as NP students
- Stress complex decision-making process
- Illustrate similarities between MD and NP roles
- Illustrate differences between RN and NP
- Highlight barriers to practice for NPs
 - Credentialing
 - Reimbursement
 - Solo practice issues

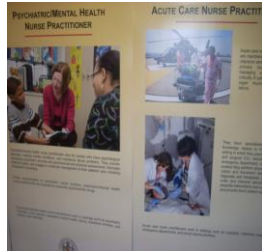


Room Set Up



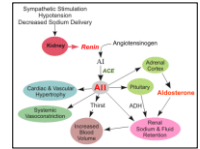
Introduction to APRNs

- PowerPoint for attendees
 - Describe NP role
 - Used AANP documents
 - Discussed MD and RN roles to compare and contrast
 - Mentioned National Practitioner Data Base

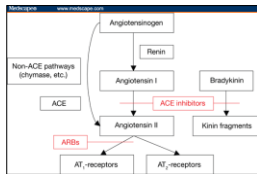


Used Three Ps

- Used integration of 3 Ps to illustrate complexity of NP education
- Used hypertension as example
 - To demonstrate high level knowledge base needed
 - To interrelate 3 Ps
 - Used RAS system

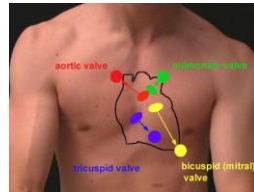


Pharmacology



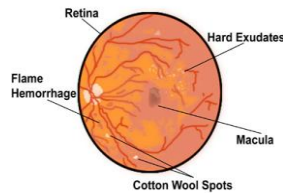
- Used RAAS to show class effects of pharmacologic agents
 - ACEIs
 - ARBs

Physical Assessment



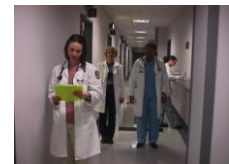
- Used multiple modalities to illustrate inter-relationships of 3 Ps
- Emphasized end-target organ effects
- Quizzed participants along the way!

Can you identify landmarks, lesions?



Simulation Lab

- Initiated case as young female with asthma exacerbation (standardized patient)
- In ER, ACNP demonstrates great history taking, early interventions
- Simulated acute respiratory distress, intubation, admission to ICU
 - Later, pt seen as out-patient for follow up asthma management



Standardized Patient Scenarios

- Five scenarios viewed by group
- Led by NP director of each specialty
- Involved group in decision-making
 - **Hyperactive child, lead assessment**
 - **Confused elderly woman, polypharmacy**
 - **Asthmatic follow up**
 - **Middle aged man for DM, HTN management**
 - **Female, post-traumatic stress disorder (veteran)**



Wrap Up From Event



- Group had new understanding of APRN education
- Clearly articulated role in primary care
- Recommended repeating in several months



Other Consequences

- Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council representation
 - **SON very involved, attended multiple sessions**
 - **Gave oral and written testimony regarding NP role in patient centered medical homes in state**
 - Listed barriers to practice that legislators need to address (reimbursement and credentialing parity)
 - Made it clear that NPs are under-utilized as PCPs



Future Areas

- Develop relationships with representatives who represent geographically
- Make self available as consultant for them
- Provide data
- Support their bills when appropriate
- Invite them to professional association events

