

**Unique Use of Case Studies in
Nurse Practitioner Education**

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The Problem

- Disconnect between students' learning in didactic settings and application in clinical settings
 - Disorganization in assessing patients' history and physical data
 - Inability to provide pertinent preceptor report
 - Desire to order excessive diagnostic studies
 - Lack of confidence in developing differential diagnoses and final diagnosis
 - Inexperience in providing patient education

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The Solution

- In-class incorporation of:
 - Unfolding case studies
 - Case study scenarios

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Unfolding Case Studies

- Presentation of patient and chief complaint
- Discussion of differential diagnoses based on chief complaint
- Revelation of patient’s history as class members ask for HPI, PFSH, and ROS
- Discussion of updated differential diagnoses based on patient history

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Unfolding Case Studies

- Revelation of patient’s physical examination as class members “perform” exam
- Discussion of appropriate tests and/or imaging studies
- Development of appropriate diagnosis
- Discussion of treatment plan and patient education

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Case Study Scenarios

- Rationale for use:
 - Need to assure active student participation
- Scenarios
 - Each student, during the semester, takes the role of patient
 - Each student, during the semester, takes the role of FNP

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Case Study Scenarios

- Students randomly assigned a “disease” and date for scenario
- “FNP” is chosen randomly the day of the scenario

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Case Study Scenarios

- Prior to scenario, “patient” develops case study including subjective and objective data for assigned disease
- “FNP” conducts the patient encounter eliciting patient history and physical examination
- “Patient” reveals case study elements in answering history and physical examination questions

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Case Study Scenarios

- “FNP” gives report to preceptor, including differential diagnoses

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Case Study Scenarios

- “FNP” orders tests and evaluates results, makes appropriate diagnosis, and provides treatment plan and patient education
- The “patient” becomes the disease expert, providing additional information

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Case Study Scenarios

- Other students observe patient encounter, make suggestions at end of scenario, write an appropriate SOAP note, and evaluate performances by FNP and patient

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Student Outcomes

- Level of expertise in their disease process
- Comfort in FNP role
- Confidence in asking history questions
- Appropriate physical exam routine
- Succinct preceptor report
- Rationale for differential diagnosis

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| <h3>Student Outcomes</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasoning for diagnostic studies• Interpretation of diagnostic studies• Justification of diagnosis• Development of treatment plan and patient education• Experience writing SOAP notes |
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