

Expanding the oral health workforce: A unique multidisciplinary practice model

Caroline Dorsen, MSN, FNP-BC

New York University College of Nursing

Donna Shelley MD, MPH

New York University College of Dentistry



Overview

- NYU Colleges of Nursing & Dentistry Collaboration
- NP Scope of practice
- Oral Health related curriculum for Nurse Practitioners (NPs)
- Recommendations



Case Study #1

- Alex is a 38 year old healthy white man who came to NYU COD for routine dental care. He was diagnosed with periodontal disease (more severe than expected for his age). His dental student was suspicious he may have an undiagnosed chronic illness and referred him to the NYU CON faculty practice for evaluation and treatment.
- At the CON faculty practice, he received an evidence based evaluation and elected to continue at the practice for his general primary care needs.



NYU Dental/Nursing Collaboration: History

- 2001 IOM call to facilitate interprofessional collaboration in education and practice
- Collaborative vision of Deans Terry Fulmer (CON) and Michael Alfano (COD)
- 2003 CON/COD partnership
- 2004 Opening of NYU CON faculty practice



What is a nurse practitioner?

- A licensed, registered nurse (RN) who has completed advanced education and training at the master's or doctoral level and licensed to work as a nurse practitioner (NP)
- Scope of practice:
 - perform comprehensive and focused health histories and physical exams, diagnose health problems, prescribe medications
 - Emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention, health of individuals in context of their families and communities, health education



Education and Credentialing: NPs

- Current: Masters degree
- By 2015 entrance into practice Doctorate in nursing practice (DNP)
- State Nurse Practice Acts
- Credentialing:
 - American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC)
 - Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
 - American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)



Curriculum Outline

- Oral health in NP curriculum
 - Pediatrics
 - Evaluation of primary and secondary dentition
 - Recognition of malocclusions, dental caries, dental injuries
 - Recommendations for prevention of dental problems; focus on newborn, infant, toddler, and school-age children oral health needs and dental hygiene; and oral health and dental health issues for children with special needs such as cleft palates.
 - Adolescents
 - Prevention, orthodontics
 - Adults
 - Pathology related
 - Elderly
 - Pathology related



NYU Collaboration: Goals

- To develop and evaluate new interdisciplinary practice and education models
- To support interdisciplinary translational research



NYU Collaboration: Education

- Examples of enriched curricula:
 - Dentistry
 - Health promotion and disease prevention
 - Use of clinical guidelines
 - Evidence based practice
 - Chairside teaching
 - Nursing
 - Physical assessment
 - 2009- 1st lecture by dental faculty in ANP program
 - ABC Health Fair
 - Interdisciplinary clinical and outreach rotations (Head Start, dental intake clinic, International opportunities and Nurse faculty practice)



NYU Collaboration: Research

- HIV testing (orasure)
- DM screening and early intervention in periodontal disease patients (R21)
- Screening for elder abuse in dental settings (R21)
- Increasing oral health screening among VNS homebound AIDS patients (R01)
- Increasing access to oral health services among elderly who attend senior centers (June submission R01)
- SBIRT for tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse in dental clinics
- Increased access to primary care through a linkage between dental and medical health care settings (RWJF)



NYU Collaboration: practice

- CON “feeling good” mobile health van
- COD “smiling faces” mobile health van
- CON faculty practice/COD oral medicine practice



Faculty Practice mission

To expand access to primary healthcare services and improve the quality of life for patients aged 18 years and older. To become primary care providers for patients without access to health care or in need of routine health care. To collaborate with the NYUCD.



Case studies in collaboration

- Omar: 58 yo male with painful oral ulcers and weight loss x 3 months
- Joanne: 40 yo homeless female seen for routine dental care. No primary care x 8 years.
- Anna: 43 yo smoker with severe periodontal disease



Recommendations

- Education
 - Coordinate with other disciplines to define competencies and create core curriculum across the lifespan
 - Design inter new professional/interdisciplinary training models
 - Expand faculty development and continuing education opportunities to include oral health



Recommendations cont.

- Practice
 - Expand scope of practice in high risk communities
 - Enhance linkages to a dental home
- Policy
 - Align incentives (reimbursement) and regulations with practice recommendations
 - Develop and implement practice guidelines at each stage of the lifecycle



Recommendations cont.

- Research
 - To describe current oral health curriculum in accredited NP programs and NP practice patterns
 - To identify effective training models
 - To identify effective practice models



Thank you

Caroline.dorsen@nyu.edu

Donna.shelley@nyu.edu

