

## ABSTRACT

Students prepared as nurse practitioners who graduate with Doctor of Nursing Practice Degrees (DNP) are prepared to provide evidence-based clinical care *and* improve patient and population health.

- Clinical skills, knowledge, and behaviors are tested through certification examination.
- Students' abilities to retain and repeat improvement activities is more difficult to verify.

## CLINICAL APPLICATION

Faculty assessment of BSN-to-DNP students' abilities to identify and change gaps in quality of care is needed to verify students' competency.

## METHODS

- Spring Semester 2017
- NURS 8124; 336 hour clinical practicum
- Terminal clinical rotation
- 22 students
- Students had previous 3-semester immersion in improvement science
- Patient, Program, or Process Outcomes
- Students each identify one improvement gap in practice or process
  - Collaborate with practice staff
  - 13-week time limit
  - Literature review
  - 3 PDSA cycles
  - Reflective journaling with faculty coaching via feedback

## RESULTS

PDSA Cycle	Goal	Actual Percentage of Students Demonstrating Competency	Faculty Action
1	80% (n=18) will identify a QI need & complete one PDSA cycle	-50% identified an issue; -10% completed one PDSA appropriately	New goal = 60% by the end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle
2	60% (n=13) will identify a QI need & complete one PDSA cycles	45% demonstrated competency by identifying an issue and completing two PDSA cycles	Virtual coaching via email and reflective journaling;  New goal = 90% will complete at least 2 out of 3 PDSA cycles
3	90% (n=20) will complete at least 2 out of 3 PDSA cycles	-86% completed at least 2 out of 3 PDSA cycles by the end of April 2017 (goal date); -100% accurately completed three PDSA cycles before the last day of the semester	SWOT analysis of this process

## SWOT Analysis

### STRENGTHS

- Reinforcement of QI processes
- Coached by experienced faculty
- Spotlighting the full skills, knowledge, & behaviors of DNP-prepared nurse practitioners

### WEAKNESSES

- Short timeframe
- Students unfamiliar with clinic

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential to engage clinics in learning QI processes
- Intentional focus on patient outcomes

### THREATS

- Resistance from some staff
- Simultaneous to rigorous clinical practicum may have decreased student buy-in

## DISCUSSION

Understanding of continuous quality improvement has the potential to impact the Quadruple Aim by -

- Improving patient outcomes & experience;
- Increasing & improving the quality of care delivered;
- Enhancing provider experience, and
- Reducing costs of care.

DNP-prepared nurse practitioners are uniquely equipped to lead evidence-based healthcare improvement.

## REFERENCES

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. (n.d.). *How to improve: Science of improvement: Testing changes*. Retrieved from <http://www.ihc.org/resources/Pages/HowtoImprove/ScienceofImprovementTestingChanges>
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. (n.d.). *Tools: Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) worksheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.ihc.org/resources/Pages/Tools/PlanDoStudyAct>

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