

Advancing Our Advanced Practice Nurses by Supporting Preceptors

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Abstract

A large component of nurse practitioner education is in the clinical setting. Preceptors play a vital role in clinical education. They need support and preparation to teach students how to deliver quality care to the patients with the greatest difficulties. Survey results of a group of preceptors revealed the barriers and motivators for precepting. One motivator was engagement with the university. A team at the university set out to increase engagement. They created a preceptor guidebook to help provide information and education about the preceptor role and relationship to the faculty and students. This also included information about best practices for giving feedback and how to evaluate the student using the clinical evaluation tool with a leveled method. In addition, a compendium of continuing education modules was created. Often the patient population that requires the most expertise and time are patients from vulnerable populations. It is important that nurse practitioner students are able to observe, learn, and model care for vulnerable populations from their expert clinical preceptors. Four free continuing education modules were made easily available to the preceptors. The topics included motivational interviewing, social determinants of health, trauma-informed care, and culturally competent care. Evaluations for the modules were provided following completion. The goal was to offer education on critical topics and engage the preceptors in worthwhile activity that would increase their teaching ability.