

Instrucciones para los Autores en la Preparación de Artículos para el XVI Coloquio Panamericano de Investigación en Enfermería, Cuba 2018

Title: Feasibility of implementing a graduate nurse-midwifery/family nurse practitioner program in Haiti

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Summary: The topic for this presentation will be the development and implementation a graduate nurse midwifery/family nurse practitioner program using an interprofessional, hybrid model of education, including the feasibility, challenges and recommendations for future endeavors

Keywords: graduate nursing education, midwifery, family nurse practitioner, primary care providers, Haiti

I. INTRODUCTION:

The dual educational focus of nurse-midwifery (NM) and family nurse practitioner (FNP) is a new concept, offered by only a few universities in the United States. In this graduate nursing program, students are prepared as midwives as well as to provide primary care for the whole family. This model of care is well suited to rural areas of Haiti where there is a critical shortage of health professionals, with 1 nurse for every 6,000 people and 1 trained midwife for every 50,000 people. A healthcare professional that is both an NM and FNP would be prepared to provide both primary care and low risk delivery services, both of which are critical to providing universal healthcare access.

The educational approach integrates the essentials of nursing graduate education (pathophysiology, pharmacology, physical assessment), nursing theory and evidence based practice in an environment that includes classroom, skills lab and the clinical setting. Because of the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to be a competent practitioner, the combined NM and FNP program is challenging and rigorous for both faculty and students. The purpose of this pilot project was to determine the feasibility of implementing a graduate NM/FNP program at an established school of nursing in Leogane Haiti.

II. METHODS:

Project Design

This joint venture was undertaken by Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti with support from University of Michigan School of Nursing faculty with funding from USA Presbyterian benevolent fund and an anonymous donor. FSIL, located in Leogane, Haiti has an established program educating bachelors prepared nurses; implementing a master's degree program in NM and FNP would not only increase the number of health professionals with graduate degrees but also prepare future faculty for nursing and midwifery education.

Because graduate nursing and midwifery is new to Haiti, the curriculum was designed the standards of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

The program plan was developed through a collaborative process with faculty at University of Michigan & FSIL as well as physicians, midwives and nurses in Haiti with a careful eye to maintaining fidelity to graduate FNP and NM education standards while tailoring the program to setting. For example, diagnosis and management of healthcare conditions will take into account in-country disease prevalence and the available resources for diagnosis and management of that disease or condition.

The first cohort was admitted and began classes in May 2018 with an expected graduation in 2020. The courses are taught sequentially and delivered in a blended format whereby students come to class one weekend a month and other coursework is delivered via Google Classroom, textbooks and assignments. This format is necessary because all students are practicing, bachelors educated nurses. Clinical courses include clinical hours, and preceptors will include FNPs when available, physicians and midwives.

Calendar of courses

2018					
May/June	July/August	September/October	November/December	November	
Advanced Pathophysiology	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	Advanced Health Assessment	Primarycare gynecologic health –	Advanced skills course:	
2019					
January/February	March/April	May/June	July/August	Sept/October	Nov/December
Antenatal Care –	Management of Common Chronic Diseases Across the Life Span.	Approaches for Promoting Optimal Population Health.	Application of Research to Primary Care Practice.	Tropical and Infectious Diseases Common in Haiti	Intrapartum, Newborn & Postpartum care I
2020					
January/February	March	April/May	June/July		
Intrapartum, Newborn & Postpartum care II	Behavioral Health Issues in Primary Care in Haiti.	Integration of Midwifery Care.	Primary Care Clinical Immersion for FNP's		

Evaluation

The NM/FNP program will undergo a continuous process of monitoring and evaluation to determine feasibility through the following methods:

- Acceptability: Data will be collected related to applicants, matriculation rates, retention of students
- Logistics: Qualitatively assess adequacy of facilities, faculty & curriculum to provide the necessary education
- Effectiveness: Student knowledge acquisition and retention will be assessed through written tests, skills checkoff & success in the clinical setting.

- Adaptability: Challenges will be identified and adaptations will be made to the specific needs country & students will be assessed by qualitatively analyzing faculty meeting minutes and emails.
- Success: Graduate hire rates, sustainability (will another cohort be enrolled), transferability for use in similar settings.
- Satisfaction: Students will be given an evaluation following each course and then a final program evaluation. Stakeholders meetings (Nursing & Midwifery Board, Government Health Officials) will be conducted and data analyzed qualitatively.

III. RESULTS

The pilot project is underway with 20 students that applied, met the qualifications and have matriculated. Identified challenges include finding clinical sites, student's work schedules and internet availability. At the time of the presentation preliminary data regarding acceptability, logistics, satisfaction with initial coursework and adaptability will be presented.

IV. CONCLUSION

Meeting the healthcare needs of lower resourced countries requires innovation in the educational focus as well as the method of delivery. Combining midwifery and primary care family nurse practitioner education into one graduate degree will hopefully prepare healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to provide competent and compassionate care to the men, women, and children of Haiti.