Addressing the National Opioid Crisis by Developing and Implementing Undergraduate Nursing Curricula

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Introduction

- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)** is a chronic, and relapsing brain disease
- **Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)** is physical and psychological reliance on opioids that include prescription pain medications and illegal drugs like Heroin & Fentanyl

Background

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that over 20.1 million Americans suffer from OUD
- 130 people in the United States (US) die after overdosing on opioids
- Nurses are often the first point of contact in the healthcare system for Americans suffering from SUD & OUD

Purpose

- To develop and implement an undergraduate nursing course addressing the opioid epidemic in America
- To align with the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National League for Nurses (NLN) to help patients:
  - Prevention & early recognition of SUD/OUD
  - Assessment & referrals for treatment including medication assisted treatment (MAT)
  - Education & support for recovery

Course Development

- Systemic literature review
- Analysis & identification of key concepts found in into primary and secondary curricular course concepts
- Meeting with key stakeholders to identify education priority areas
- Identified key partners in course implementation
- Development of course materials
- Course content sent to key stakeholders & field experts for review & revision
- Submission to curriculum committee
- Course revisions completed
- Re-submission to the curriculum committee
- Approval of course
- Course launch
- Course evaluation & plans for ongoing updates

Implications

- Education of undergraduate nursing students Plans for course expansion to include interdisciplinary healthcare providers
- Plans to integrate & the **National Institutes Health (NIH) Health Heal Initiative** into the course framework

Contact Information

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