HEALTH LITERACY EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING IN NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENTS

Denise Isibel, DNP, RN, CNE
Assistant Professor
University of North Carolina Wilmington
DISCLOSURE
THERE IS NO CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST STATEMENT (IF APPLICABLE), EMPLOYER, AND WHETHER ANY SPONSORSHIP OR COMMERCIAL SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO THE AUTHOR
HEALTH LITERACY AND THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

• Health literacy is related to quality health outcomes

  *National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy*”

• FNP’s care for the most vulnerable of populations

• Patients with low health literacy

• FNPs have a key role in health promotion/health prevention and health education

• Higher health care costs/poorer outcomes/ higher readmissions
PURPOSE

• The purpose of this study is to determine what knowledge and experience first semester FNP students have regarding health literacy using the Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HL-KES) (Cormier & Kotrlik, 2009). This pilot study is expected to determine current health literacy knowledge and experience of FNP’s in the UNCW program.
OBJECTIVES

1. What are the characteristics of Nurse Practitioner students
2. To what extent do Family Nurse Practitioner students have health literacy Knowledge
3. To what extent do family nurse practitioner students have health literacy experience?
4. What is the relationship between health literacy knowledge and health literacy experience?
METHOD

• This descriptive correlational study was used to assess the health literacy knowledge and experiences of first semester family nurse practitioner students. The target population for the study was family nurse practitioner students beginning their first semester in a FNP program.

• A convenience sample (n = 35) of first semester FNP students who attended the program orientation and assessment completed the Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HL-KES) (Cormier & Kotrlik, 2009).

• 35 of the total of 68 in the class completed the survey (51%).
RESULTS

Health Literacy Knowledge

- Average test score for Health literacy knowledge  79%
- 28 % of the sample knew literacy was the best predictor of healthcare status.
- 88% participants did not know instruments for assessing health literacy
- 50% of the FNP students were unable to identify a health literate health care instruction
RESULTS

Health literacy experience

- 68% have little or no experience in evaluating health care materials
- 60% Report Health literacy was not addressed in their Nursing program
- 3-5% Participated in Health Literacy activities

Relationship between health literacy knowledge and health literacy experience?

- Pearson Correlation using SPSS with \( p = .01 \)
- Demonstrated an inverse relationship health literacy knowledge and health literacy experience.
CONCLUSION

- Strength: Using health care materials and video tapes for patient healthcare information

- FNP students have some health literacy knowledge and some health literacy experience but findings revealed significant gaps in both health literacy knowledge and experience
  - Using Health Literacy Screening tools
  - Evaluating reading level of healthcare materials
  - Using Audio tapes for healthcare information
  - Using computer software for healthcare information
IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Nurse Practitioners need be proficient in both identifying limited health literacy and applying appropriate interventions.
- Developing competencies in the NP curriculum will allow NP to increase knowledge and competencies in health literacy.
- Nursing educators must take a hard look at established nursing curricula to determine if they are providing nursing students with the knowledge and experiences required to provide healthcare to individuals with low health literacy skills.
IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES

• The study has expanded to collect information from other FNP programs in the State?
• Does an Health Literacy module in FNP programs increase Health literacy knowledge and use in the clinical setting?
REFERENCES


