Development of a Telehealth Collaborative to Improve Student Exposure in the Clinical Application of Telehealth

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Purpose:
In 2018 the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) published a statement in support of telehealth use in NP education. Similar support statements have been posed by the American Nurses Association. These statements have far reaching implications for nursing and nurse practitioner education. A wide range of factors will continue to contribute to the need for expanded use of telehealth for years to come. These factors include aging population, access to care issues and even the need for clinical/preceptor access making telehealth a viable option in many venues. To gain widespread acceptance for the use of telehealth it is important that students gain exposure during theeducation process. The literature is relatively devoid of student experiences in telehealth other than simulated experiences. This presentation will focus on how two universities collaborated with a telehealth vendor to afford nurse practitioner students real world exposure in the application of telehealth. Key infrastructure needs as well as initial barriers will be addressed prior to student placement in a telehealth practicum. To truly meet the goal of student exposure to telehealth, it is important that novel clinical experiences be developed. See how two universities and a telehealth vendor collaborated to make student learning a reality.

Methods: Students gained real world telehealth clinical experience by using a industry telehealth provider partnering with a university. Students benefited and learned a wide-range of required knowledge as well as skill related to tele-practice. Legal, regulatory, patient confidentiality and developing empathetic tele-conferencing skills were all provided to students. Students were able to practice these skills as well as evaluate the skills of other practitioners while meeting individual patient and family needs.

Results: Students can benefit from real-world telehealth experiences using university industry partnerships.

Conclusion: Exposure to telehealth can be incorporated in nursing curriculum which better prepares students for industry need while improving student learning outcomes.

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Keywords:
Exposure, Student and Telehealth
Abstract Summary:
Telehealth is an area of care delivery which of renewed interest. Providing student exposure to this method of care is relatively new to nursing education. See how a university/industry partnership was used to meet this need.

References:

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Author Summary: Branham's contributions have included professor, manager, business owner and CEO and is also a Fellow of AANP (FAANP). University affiliations include Associate Professor in the ACNP Program at Texas Tech University and adjunct faculty at Texas Woman's University. He is a frequent local, state and national speaker on issues affecting the ACNP role, emergency care, business practices, telehealth and international issues. Branham maintains an active clinical practice focused in critical care, emergency and tele-practice.