Participating in the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: The Students' View

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Background

The Graduate Nursing Education Demonstration (GNE) is a federally funded-CMS directed 4 year demonstration designed to increase the number of primary care NPs. Five sites are funded, one is Gulf Coast Region that includes a partnership between: Memorial Herman Hospital System, UT Houston, UTMB, TWU Houston, PVA&M.

NP students are placed in clinical agencies that precept the students; clinical agencies receive funding based on preceptorship hours.

Currently there is no published literature about the perceptions of GNE student participants. Review of the literature surrounding NP education reveals a paucity of knowledge regarding graduate level NP student’s satisfaction with clinical agencies, clinical rotations, or preceptors: Study illuminates student perceptions regarding the innovative GNE program.

Study Aim

To explore the student nurse practitioner perceptions regarding participation in the Graduate Nurse Education (GNE) Demonstration Project

Methods

- Post experience survey using a 17 item scale (5 level: strongly disagree-strongly agree with neutral category)
- 2 narrative questions relating to positive impact and negative impact
- 1 open ended narrative question
- 1 narrative question about the impact of the GNE on the profession

Results: Sample and Items

- n=75 (2013 and 2014 cohorts)
- 88% female
- 79% FNP Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearly understood that I was a participant in the GNE project</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understood the clinical placement process used for the GNE project</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felt that the GNE project facilitated my clinical placements</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt that clinical agencies accepted my clinical placement due to the GNE payments for precepting me</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt my clinical agencies understood the GNE project</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My preceptors understood the GNE project</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The GNE project is helping to grow the numbers of NPs in this area</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There were questions from my preceptors about the GNE payments</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understood why I completed a student profile for the GNE</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt treated fairly by the GNE placement process</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My clinical education was enhanced due to the GNE</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My clinical placements with GNE were timely</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My GNE clinical placements were appropriate to my learning needs</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My GNE clinical placements were straightforward and clear to me</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt Memorial Hermann had my best interest in mind with my GNE placements</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt Gateway to Care had my best interest in mind with my GNE placements</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understood the overall goal of the GNE project</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: Positive Impact Themes

- Helped with Placements
- Preceptors Receptive
- Good rotation/enjoyed/positive impact
- GNE Didn’t help/self-placed
- Opened Doors
- Good incentive/Preceptors more accepting of students
- Less stressful being placed/saved time

Results: Negative Impact Themes

- No Effect
- Iffy placements/last minute/no availability/not timely
- No organization/confusing
- Site not convenient or appropriate
- Clinics taking students for money

GNE Impact on NP Community in Future

- Yes/Positive/allowed students to obtain experience
- No
- Not certain
- Can be positive, but process needs to be streamlined/kinks need to be worked out
- Will have great future impact
- Currently confusing/not a lot of information available about GNE
- Mostly positive impact foreseen

Results: Other Comments

- No assistance
- Needs improvement/preceptors can’t teach—only want money
- Program should continue
- Focus on preceptors who want to teach, and not press the money issue
- More research needs to be done on GNE participating sites
- Preceptors need to be given more instruction on how to teach students
- Need more experienced nurses/NP as preceptors

Conclusions

- Provides for baseline data with GNE project
- Illuminates NP student perceptions
- Item means neutral or agree
- Narrative themes indicate that GNE was seen as positive, but confusion with process. GNE seen as a positive impact on NP community
- Subsequent surveys will be performed for each graduating class (2015, 2016)

References

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