

Title:

Development of an Evidence-Based Online Veteran Healthcare Course

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Session Title:

Ethical Considerations of Veteran- and Military Family-Focused Academic and Research Initiatives

Slot:

F 04: Friday, 28 July 2017: 2:30 PM-3:45 PM

Scheduled Time:

2:30 PM

Keywords:

deployment related health concerns, veteran and veteran healthcare

References:

Brown, J. L. (2013). The unasked question. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 308(18), 1869-1870.

Collins, E., Wilmoth, M., & Schwartz, L. (2013). "Have you ever served in the military?" campaign in partnership with the joining forces initiative. *Nursing Outlook*, 61(5), 375-376. doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2013.07.004.

Convoy, S. & Westphal, R. J. (2013). The importance of developing military cultural competence. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 39(6), 591-594. doi:10.1016/j.jen.2013.08.010

Fredricks, T. R. & Nakazawa, M. (2015). Perception of physicians in clinical medical practice on veterans' issues related to health care, *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, 115(6), 360-368.

Abstract Summary:

Over 2 million Americans have served in the military since 9/11. Often civilian providers are these veterans only or primary source of health care. This presentation will discuss the development of a first-of-its-kind online veteran centric healthcare course aimed at educating nurses to care for veterans and their families.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
1. Discuss development of an 8 module online veteran centric healthcare course	1. Discuss the 8 module online course matrix and topics covered
2. Identify integration of the modified health assessment and pertinent service history	2. Review integration of the "Have You Ever Served" initiative and its use in identifying physical and psychological wounds of war,

	the unique needs of women veterans, and the impact of the deployment cycle on military families.
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Abstract Text:

Over 2 million Americans have served in the military since 9/11. These numbers include Active Duty, Reservists and those in the National Guard. When they retire or return to their civilian lives, military service becomes far less visible. However, the time in the military has created varied, and at times, significant health risks that require special screening and monitoring. Often civilian healthcare providers are these veterans only or primary source of health care. Many civilian providers lack knowledge regarding the military, the military culture, and the effect of military service on the overall mental and physical health of veterans. This can leave the veteran at a significant disadvantage in regards to their overall healthcare needs.

The Joining Force campaign developed by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden challenged colleges of nursing around the country to work to improve the healthcare of our veterans. To date over 660 nursing programs in all 50 states have joined forces to included veteran centric healthcare issues into nursing and advanced practice nursing curriculum with several colleges including specific needs of military families in their curriculum. In 2012, the authors developed the first online “Introduction to Military and Veteran Health” course aimed at educating nurses to care for veterans in the civilian healthcare arena.

Nurses are on the frontlines of healthcare often working in clinics, hospitals, and community agencies, and may be the first to encounter a veteran in crisis or experiencing physical and/or psychological comorbidities secondary to their military service. Due to the potential correlation between military service and physical and psychological health comorbidities, it is imperative for all healthcare providers to screen veterans for a history of military service and to be educated on how to provide appropriate care to this vulnerable population. In addition, knowledge regarding resources and referrals available to veterans in the community is critical to meeting the needs of veterans and their families. Prompt identification and treatment is imperative in order to decrease the deleterious health consequences related to military service and to improve healthcare outcomes of veterans receiving in the civilian sector.

The “Introduction to Military and Veteran Health” course is an eight module online course that helps bridge the knowledge gap of civilian providers by addressing military culture, the Veteran Administration healthcare system, conflict specific risk factors and co-morbidities as well as knowledge regarding referral sources/resources in the community, physical and psychological wounds of war, impact of military service on military families, and women veteran specific healthcare needs to include military sexual trauma. Students who have taken the course indicate an awareness in the need to ask all patients if they have served in the military and an increase in knowledge and comfort level regarding addressing military service related healthcare risk factors and comorbidities as well as increase knowledge of resources and referral sources in the community.