

# Using Story Guided Online Deliberate Practice to Develop Critical Communication Skills: *Opportunities & Challenges*

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UNC  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

# Objectives

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- Describe the application of deliberate practice in developing nursing students' critical communication skill
- Examine the opportunities and challenges of using online deliberate practice to develop critical communication skills

This study was supported by STTI Alpha Alpha Chapter

No conflict of interest



# Using Story in Education

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- Narrative Pedagogy
  - An effective teaching/learning strategy
  - Cycles of interpretation foster continued learning
  - Link actions with consequences

(Sherwood, Durham, & Zomorodi, 2016)



# Interprofessional Communication

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- Effective interprofessional communication is linked to better patient outcomes (The Joint Commission, 2015)
- Pre-licensure nursing students have limited opportunity to practice and continue to enter the workforce feeling unprepared (Guhde, 2014)



# Standardized Communication Tool – SBAR (Kaiser Permanente)

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## **S:** Situation

- What is the situation your are calling about?

## **B:** Background

- Pertinent background information related to the situation

## **A:** Assessment

- What is your assessment of the situation?

## **R:** Recommendation

- What is your recommendation or what do you want?



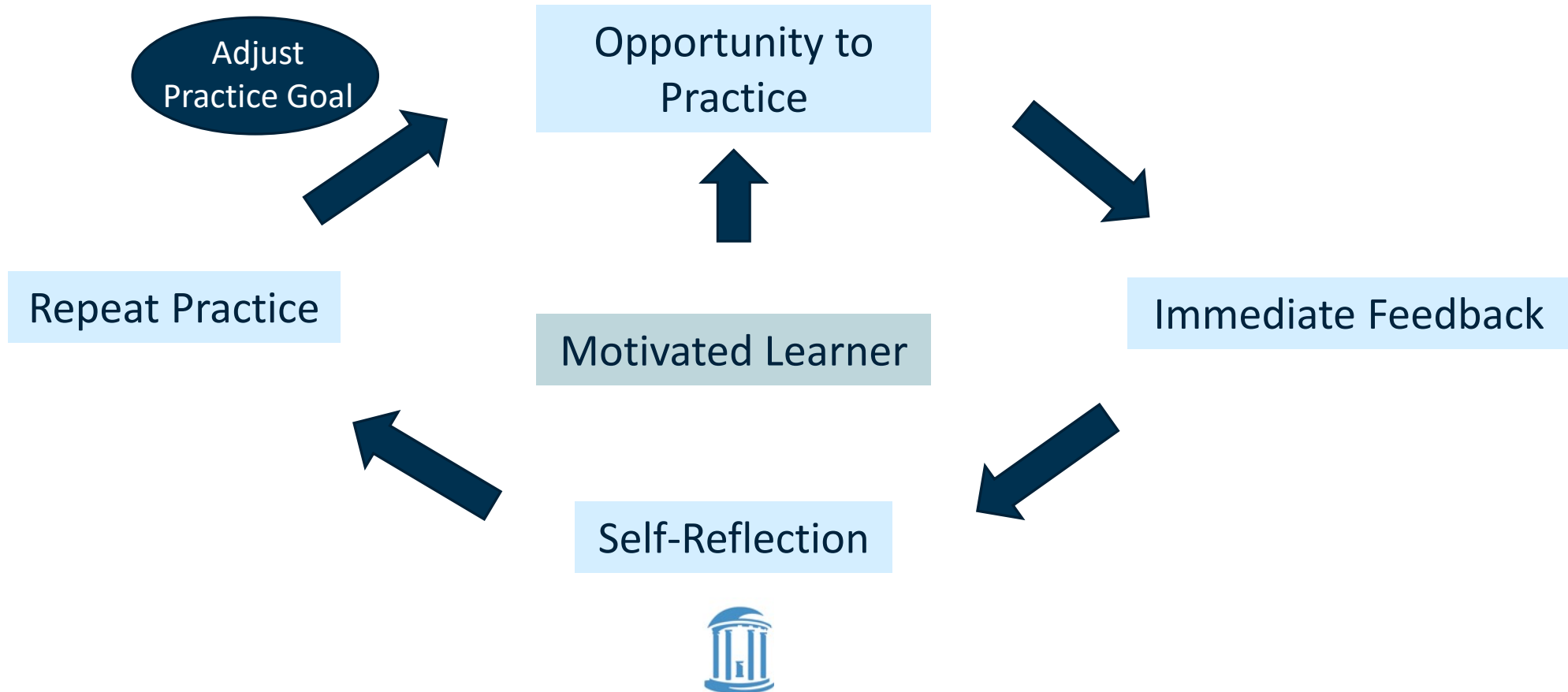
# Deliberate Practice (DP)

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- Guided and structured repetitive practice with the goal to improve performance (Ericsson, 2008)



# Deliberate Practice (DP)



# Online Deliberate Practice Session

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### 3. Complete self-assessment checklist

FEEDBACK

2. Record SBAR report

PRACTICE

4. Answer self-reflective questions

REFLECTION

1. Listen to clinical story

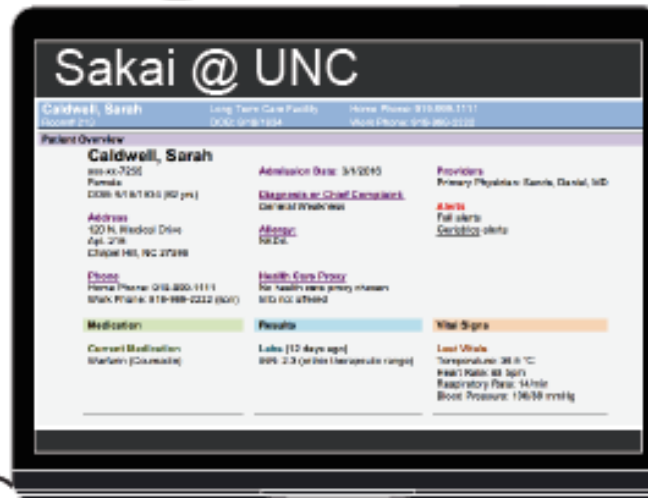
45-minute

5. Record refined SBAR

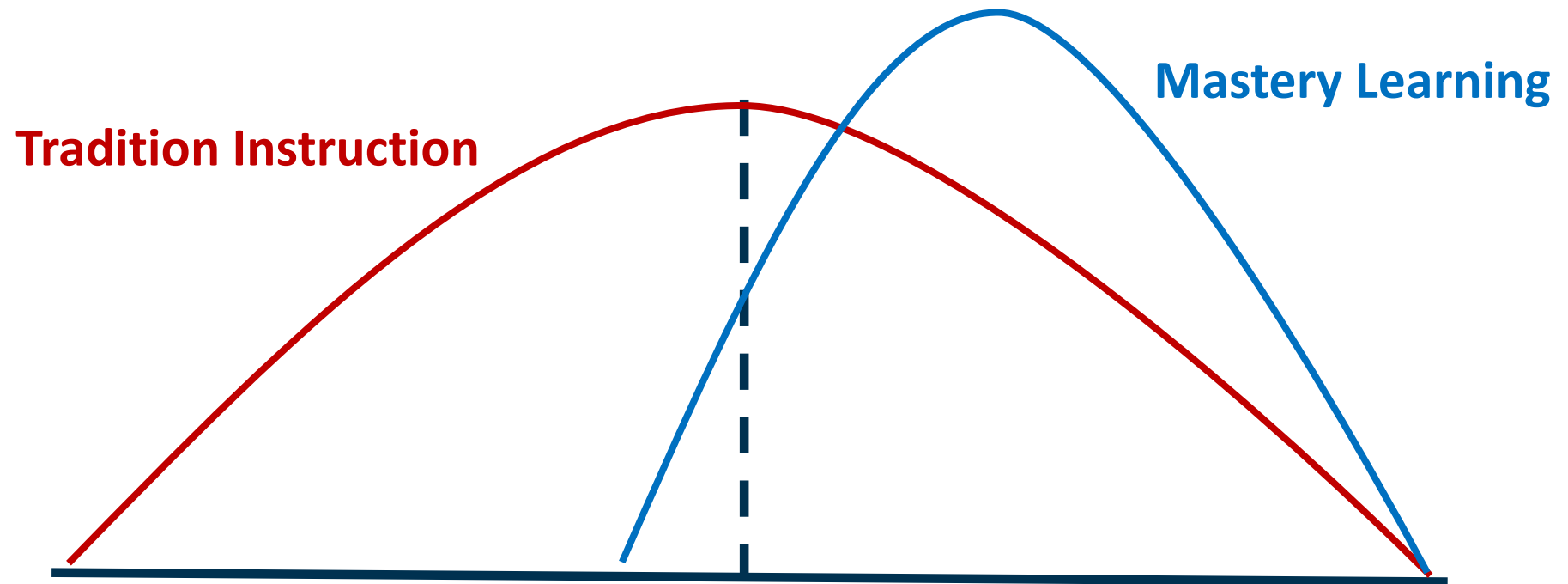
PRACTICE AGAIN

MOTIVATED  
LEARNER

REPEAT PRACTICE CYCLE



# Mastery Learning (Bloom, 1971)



# Study Design

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- Pilot experimental, pre- and post-test group comparison study
- Exempted by IRB



# Study Design

**CONTROL**  
n = 21

Baseline  
DP Session  
(Pre-Test)

Evaluation  
DP Session  
(Post-Test)

Evaluation  
Survey

**INTERVENTION**  
n = 22

DP Session

DP Session

DP Session

Week 1-2

Week 3-4

Week 5-6

Week 7-8

Week 9-10

↑ **Additional Optional DP Sessions for Intervention Group** ↑

DP Session

DP Session

DP Session

DP Session



# ISBAR Measurement Tool

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o ISBAR Checklist adapted from ISBAR  
Interprofessional Communication Rubric (ICR)

(Foronda et al., 2015)



# ISBAR Measurement Tool

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## ○ Identification

- Name
- Position
- Where he/she is calling from

## ○ Situation

- Patient by name and age
- Diagnosis or chief complaint
- Reason for the call / problem

## ○ Background

- Admission date
- Relevant past medical history
- Recent interventions for the patient

## ○ Assessment

- Vital signs
- Level of consciousness / behavior
- Relevant assessment data

## ○ Recommendation

- Suggests potential reason for condition or suggests intervention
- Explains urgency of actions
- Repeats back all orders; clarifying if needed

(Foronda et al., 2015)



# Outcome Measures

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- Meeting mastery standard (adapted IICR checklist)
- Performance change (adapted IICR checklist: 0-15 )
- Confidence level change (numeric 0 -10 scale)
- Learner satisfaction (Likert scale)



# What We Learned

- Highly satisfactory and well-accepted
  - 93.5% very/somewhat satisfied
  - 98.0% reported skill improvement
- **Technical Difficulties (40%)**
  - Recorder failure
  - Incompatible browser





# What We Learned

- Adapted IICR Checklist produced acceptable inter-rater reliability
  - Complexity of communication skill
    - Clinical relevancy
    - Order
    - Length



# What We Learned

- Significant group differences in mean performance and confidence level change
  - **More...**
    - Practice sessions
    - Specific feedback
    - In-person debrief



# Conclusion

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- Story guided online DP is highly satisfactory and cost effective
- Careful planning can address technical, evaluation, and structural challenges
- Future research is needed to facilitate the development of critical communication skill that has a direct impact on patient outcomes



# References

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