NPs report perception of lack of preparation

- Casting
- EKG interpretation
- Splinting
- Suturing
- Simple office procedures

A large percentage of NPs certified in adult or family practice are working in settings where these skills are often required. Therefore, a series of workshops and labs have been embedded in our course curriculum.

Purpose

To provide NP students the opportunity to gain confidence approaching office procedures.

Methods

Breast and Pelvic Lab

- Coaching by experienced, knowledgeable, standardized patient
- Immediate instructor feedback

12 Lead ECG Interpretation Workshop

- Interactive computerized modules
- Case-based interpretation guided by clinical expert in the classroom

Procedures Workshop

- Pigs feet for tactile realism
  - Pre-made abscesses for I & D
  - Suturing
  - Stapling
  - Punch biopsy
  - Adhesives
  - Shave biopsy

- Stuffed dishwashing gloves with simulated subungual hematomas
  - Practice with cautery stick

Splinting and Casting Lab

- Application and removal of splints and casts
  - Gutter, spica, sugar-tong, stirrup splints
  - Short arm and leg casts

Results

Students consistently engage in these learning experiences enthusiastically and report a sense of relief afterwards. While the fear of the unknown is relieved, students also acknowledge their novice skill level. They are appreciative of the opportunity to try these procedures before encountering the need in the patient setting. Some students develop a clear appreciation for the type of practice setting they will seek or avoid upon graduation.

References


Contact

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