Interprofessional Education and Practice: PNP and Dentistry

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June 8, 2017
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- Clinical Professor, NYU Meyers
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- Practice focuses on caring for at-risk children with medically complex health care problems
- Research: Improving health care outcomes for pediatric and adolescent patients
- Digital Editor, *Contemporary Pediatrics*, writing the monthly column, PNP Corner
Building the Relationship
Planning
Goals
Outcomes
Interprofessional Practice & Learning Activities

• Presentations to PNP students by dental faculty
• Dental Clinic
• Dental Outreach
• Dental and PNP students working collaboratively in the Dental Clinic and HeadStart Preschool Programs
PNP STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

• Oral health assessments in each clinical rotation
  - New this year: Use of oral camera for transmission to dental office
  - Referrals
ORAL HEALTH EXAMS COMPLETED BY PNP STUDENTS OVER 3 SEMESTERS

- Students Engaged in Clinical Settings in Oral Health Evaluations, Education & Treatment

- OUTCOMES
  - PNP Student Data
  - 15 students
  - We track data on Typhon
  - Oral health history completed: 425
  - Oral health exam performed 461
  - Referrals
Interprofessional Activities

• Dental and PNP students
 Interprofessional Presentations
to dental residents, dental
students in pediatric rotation,
and faculty
• PNP students presenting at
 National Conferences
Role of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Oral Health of Children

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Abstract

Purpose: To evaluate current practice of Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (CPNPs) on their inclusion of oral health assessment in their current practice and educational experiences.

Methods: An anonymous survey was sent to 12,676 PNPs certified by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB), consisting of 20 questions regarding current practices in pediatric oral health assessments, fluoride varnish applications, and dental referrals for their pediatric patients.

Results: From the survey, we received 1,701 (13.4%) responses. There were 93.62% of responders that had no dental component in their PNP clinical rotation; 70.03% felt that they didn't receive an adequate education in oral assessment from their programs. CPNPs frequently if not always, 87.4%, perform an oral health assessment as part of their well-child visit. CPNPs, 84.62% frequently/always discuss recommendations for brushing and oral hygiene with parents and 64.02% frequently/always discuss establishing a Dental Home with parents. Of CPNPs responders, 37.10% knew to refer patients by 12 months of age. Additionally, 81.27% of CPNPs do not apply fluoride varnish in their practice. Of CPNPs responders, 55.83% have no difficulty referring their pediatric patients to either a pediatric/general dentist.

Conclusion: The majority of CPNPs do oral health screenings but do not perform fluoride varnish applications; they would benefit from interprofessional education in oral health assessment and prevention.

Introduction

Expanding the roles of primary care health providers including Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs) is one strategy to address national oral systemic health care problems. To improve access to dental care and promote early detection of Early Childhood Caries (ECC), the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) encourages parents and other care providers to help infants establish dental home by 12 months of age. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are embedded in PNP practice, so PNPs are well positioned to play an important role in providing oral health screening, early risk assessment, and preventive services to children who are at high risk for Early Childhood Caries (ECC).
Role of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Oral Health of Children

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• 347 (20.75%) CPNPs had attended oral health workshops or conferences for PNPs since training, with only 335 (19.93%) responders taken courses in the utilization and application of fluoride varnish.

• 955 (56.88%) participants felt confident in the recognition of oral diseases including dental decay (Fig2).

Fig.2: Do you feel confident in the recognition of oral diseases including dental decay?

• 1,039 (62.63%) CPNPs always or frequently 411 (24.77%) performed an oral health assessment as part of their well-child visit.

Fig.3: How often do you discuss establishing a Dental Home with the parent?

• 929 (55.83%) had no difficulty referring their pediatric patients to either a pediatric dentist/general dentist

• 760 (46%) reported that they never received feedback from the referral dentist (Fig6).

Fig.5: At what age do you usually refer the patients for a dental visit?

Fig.4: Do you apply fluoride varnish in your practice?

Fig.6: How often do you receive feedback from the referral dentist?

Conclusions

• It can be deduced from our survey that greater than 70% of participants believed they did not have adequate education in oral health assessment. Ironically, more than 50% of participants still believed that they could recognize dental decay and oral disease.

• Many of those surveyed performed an oral health assessment, discussion on feeding habits and recommendations for brushing to the parents at the time of well child visit. It was unfortunate that according to our finding, not many of CPNPs were applying fluoride varnish or attending continuing education on its application.

• Our survey revealed that CPNPs believed they were lacking in oral health education. This highlights the fact that many CPNPs do not know to refer pediatric patient by 12 months of age for establishing a Dental Home.

• The organizations that provide continuing education for PNPs should consider designing programs that provide oral health education. More emphasis on oral health content should be provided in current PNP curriculum.

From the pediatric dental perspective, there is a need to provide CPNPs with feedback after their referral so that oral diseases including dental decay can be approached from an interdisciplinary point of view.

References


• First Grant: Samuel Harris
• Educating Mothers of Newborns about Oral Health and Prevention of Cavities
• Faculty and students participated
• Outcomes: Published studies
CURRICULUM CHALLENGE GRANT

- Curriculum Challenge Grant
  - Developed curriculum for PNP and Dental students Interprofessional Education and Practice
- Now Sustained >8 yrs
- Outcomes:
  - IPP each semester
  - Distinguished Practice Award
  - Published study
SIMULATION EXPERIENCES

• End of First Semester FOR PNP STUDENTS
  – Oral health history and assessments with SPs

• New this past year: application of SDF

• Annual Simulation on Oral Health at end of semester caring for complex patients

• Outcomes
STUDENTS AS ORAL HEATH CHAMPIONS

- Students with Faculty presenting at national meeting

- Outcomes
  - Oral Health Champions
STUDENTS AS ORAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

• Students presenting at NAPNAP annual conference

• Outcomes
NEW INITIATIVES: DOCUMENTATION ON EMR’s

- Oral health assessment
- Oral health teaching
- Oral health risk assessment tool
- Oral health referrals

Each of these can be inserted as templates that are on the drop-down menu
LOOKING AHEAD

- When is the next plan?
- What are the expected deliverables?
QUESTIONS?
Thank you
REFERENCES


