

CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS RELATED TO MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER

Tammy M. Slater, DNP, MS, ACNP-BC & Deborah S. Finnell, PhD, CARN-AP, FAAN
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Baltimore, MD, USA

BACKGROUND

- Buprenorphine prescribing for treatment of persons with opioid use disorder is heavily regulated in the U.S.
- Since 2016, nurse practitioners (NPs) can legally provide buprenorphine treatment, albeit with completion of federally-approved education, possession of a federal waiver to prescribe buprenorphine in the context of their state's scope of practice.¹
- Current curricula is lacking to prepare NPs to manage this population.

PURPOSE

To augment the current curricula to ensure that NP graduates from a large U.S. university are academically prepared to manage patients with complex pain, opioid use disorder, and treatment with buprenorphine.

METHODS

- Content related to screening, brief intervention, treatment, and referral to treatment for alcohol and other drug use had previously been integrated into the curriculum.²
- A gap analysis revealed that opioid-specific content was lacking related to pain and opioid use, stigma related to opioid use, and management approaches to treat chronic pain.
- Strategies were identified for providing the education required to obtain a buprenorphine waiver.

DESIGN MODEL

- The five-phased systematic instructional design model (ADDIE) by Branch³ was used to guide the project.
- According to Branch, intentional learning should be learner centered, innovative, authentic, and inspirational.

Analysis	Identifying the learning problem
Design	Determining the learning objectives
Development	Creating the content and learning materials
Implementation	Putting the plan into action
Evaluation	Testing feasibility

RESULTS

A module on **Pain and Addiction** was developed to provide foundational content for two interactive case-based learning modules: **Caring for Patients with Chronic Pain** and **Addressing Stigma in Healthcare**

A final module integrated in the final clinical practicum courses directed students to the **Waiver Training for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses** through the Providers Clinical Support System (<https://pcssnow.org>)

CONCLUSION

- The case-based modules provided students with the opportunity to visualize patients with opioid use disorder at a time when the pandemic precluded clinical practice opportunities.
- The enhanced curriculum is the first step toward expanding the NP workforce prepared to manage patients with opioid use disorder.
- This sustainable curriculum holds promise for increasing the number of NPs who can prescribe buprenorphine.

FUTURE RESEARCH

A research study is underway to determine the proportion of NP graduates who applied for, obtained, and utilized the buprenorphine waiver.

REFERENCES

1. 114th Congress. Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. 2016 July 22, 2016; H.R. 6311.
2. Finnell, D.S., Sanchez, M., Hansen, B.R., Stevens, A., Savage, C.L., Seale, J.P., & Johnson, J.A. (2022). Changes in nursing students' attitudes and perceptions after receipt of enhanced substance use-related curricular content. *Journal of Addictions Nursing*. 33(2), 62-69. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JAN.0000000000000427>.
3. Branch, R.M. (2009). Instructional Design: The ADDIE approach. New York: Springer.