

Teaching Nursing Students about Integrated Primary Care for Underserved Populations through Hands-On Quality Improvement and Interdisciplinary Shadowing Experiences

This rotation site is one component of a 6-week course put on by the School of Nursing, titled Community & Population Health. Students are assigned to various clinical sites, and this poster will describe the curricular approach that has been taken by one site, at the A.F. Williams UCHHealth Family Medicine Residency Clinic, located in Central Park, Denver.

This poster will describe the current curricular structure that accompanies this rotation site. First, students will learn about the history of one of the main neighborhoods that is served by the AF Williams Family Medicine clinic – the Park Hill neighborhood. They will learn about the redlining practices and subsequent inequities that underlie this neighborhood's history. They will explore how these inequities directly affect the health of the neighborhood's residents, many of whom are served by the clinic. The students will then engage in a quality improvement project that has been designed to outreach the clinic's vulnerable patient populations, with the objective of improving a specific health outcome. In previous blocks, students have focused on diabetes control among African-American patients, diabetes control among Spanish-speaking patients, and most recently and currently, colorectal cancer screening rates among patients who require an interpreter. During these efforts, students will become familiarized with culturally sensitive approaches to patient interactions, strategies for effective motivational interviewing, and best practices when using interpreter services for the care of their language-diverse patients. Through this outreach, they will learn about the various social determinants of health that can pose as barriers to achieving effective prevention and wellness among our primary care population.

Concurrently, the students will be immersed in shadowing experiences with multiple nurses who work in various roles at our large, interdisciplinary, full-scope Family Medicine clinic. These will include our Charge Nurse, our Nurse Supervisor, our Nurse Triage Team, our Nurse Care Manager, and our Social Worker. These half-day experiences are meant to give each student a perspective of the diversity, complexity and intellectual challenge of nursing careers within the world of outpatient primary care. These interactions will also give students insight into the integration of multiple provider teams, such as the Medical team, the Behavioral Health team, the Pharmacy team, and the Nurse team, all of which are vital to delivering high-quality, centralized care to our patients as we work toward their goal of achieving health.

This curriculum has just recently become finalized, and we are now in the process of developing an evaluative strategy, which will include pre- and post-rotation surveys as well as qualitative data from exit interviews following the students' completion of the course. Therefore, we currently have no results to report, as our methods are currently being developed. The objective of this poster would be to present the current curricular structure and to gather feedback on potential areas of improvement as well as feedback on our evaluative strategy, which will be in its initial stages of rollout by the time the symposium takes place.