



Utilization of Web Based Nurse Practitioner Preceptor Tracking System

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Implementation Summary

One of the challenges of patient care is the decreasing number and availability of Primary Care Providers (PCP). This decline has resulted in a marked growth in enrollment to Nurse Practitioner Graduate Nursing programs. It is imperative that each student becomes competent to function as an advance practice nurse throughout the duration of the program. With an increasing number of students in a variety of clinical settings tracking these competencies in paper form can be very difficult for clinical faculty and may not provide accurate up to date information regarding each student. We chose to explore technology assisted tracking systems to better meet the needs of the graduate nursing program. The company we incorporated into our program is Elogs, a web based company out of Maryland.

The objective of utilizing a web based nurse practitioner preceptor tracking system (WBNPPTS) is to track individual students' clinical experiences in aggregate form throughout their graduate education. Nurse practitioner students in both a campus based education or distance learning program are placed in many off site settings to obtain their clinical training over a 9-24 month period depending on the curriculum. Tracking system, such as Elogs, allows the students to log hours and individual client encounters during each precepted experience. This then allows for accurate representation of total clinical hours completed as well as delineation of time spent in each specialty. Individual client encounters provide detailed information including demographics, history and physical exam components, CPT/ICD codes, diagnostics, treatments, and education provided to each client. Information that is entered can then be pulled together to formulate a semester or year end portfolio for each student, that can be used for securing a new position in the expanded role. Another important benefit of WBNPPTS is that it familiarizes the student with the financial side of primary care as well as the informatics component.

Clinical faculty has the challenge of monitoring up to 8 students, assuring that they meet the requirements to be eligible for the national certification exam. Access to this tracking system allows for 24/7 monitoring of daily, weekly, or monthly aggregate hours and client encounter information. In addition, reports that depict client encounters can be used to facilitate discussion of clients during clinical conference or seminars. Clinical

faculty is also able to monitor the progression of student involvement with each client, starting with an observational level to independent level. This has a two-fold benefit, one that the student is progressing in the manner that they should and the other that the placement meets the needs of the students.

As campus administrator it is important to have an organized system containing all relevant preceptor information, such as student's hours, placements utilized, contact information, as well as certification and license information of preceptors. Campus administrators are able to organize preceptor contact information, licensure, and specialty in one easy access place. Reports can be generated indicating total hours donated by each preceptor for letters of recognition and recertification credits. Reports indicating patient demographics and ICD codes validating appropriate services to meet student needs can be generated. For those programs that provide services to underserved populations, utilizing WBNPPTS can help facilitate that indeed this population is receiving care from students.

In general, the feedback from students was positive. Although the entry of clinical encounters was time consuming in the beginning, the students were able to master this in a much more proficient manner as the academic year progressed. The clinical portfolios provided to the students at the end of the year provided a wealth of information depicting their clinical experiences. In addition, by graduation, students were much more familiar with ICD/CPT codes which will only make the transition from student to practitioner much easier.

Clinical faculty benefited the most by utilizing this system. Quick access, succinct reports and the ability to truly view what each and every student was experiences each week were advantages this tracking system provided to the clinical faculty. Campus administrators also had positive experiences with the Elogs system. The ability to have an organized system of all preceptors, contact information, hours they have precepted and have it accessible anytime of the day from anywhere was a huge benefit. Less time was spent tracking down contact information or total preceptor hour logs.