

CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS

Problem/Needs Assessment:

To optimize patient outcomes, modern healthcare providers must work together in a collaborative environment. Many nurse anesthesia students do not encounter interprofessional collaboration during their education. Students would benefit from a learning environment that includes faculty and learners from other disciplines such as MD, PA, NP.

Moreover, ultrasound has become the standard of care application for regional anesthetic application. Nurse anesthesia students often do not have instruction in ultrasound techniques until they encounter regional anesthesia procedures in their clinical rotations. Prior instruction in ultrasound equipment and techniques are essential in improving student success.

Program Objectives:

To provide ultrasound instruction to improve preparedness and increase the number of peripheral nerve blocks (PNB) successfully completed during student clinical training.

Description of Program:

Because of the IPE culture that exists at our institution, we sought the expertise of the ultrasound PA faculty in planning our approach. A 5-Phase process resulted, wherein CRNA students learn ultrasound mastery through a combination of lecture, lab, and workshop in an IPE format.

Evaluation/Assessment:

Since the implementation of the IPE ultrasound program, successful peripheral nerve block administration by CRNA students increased from a median of 9 (2016) to 20 (2018) (122% increase) and 17 (2019) (88% increase). Students attributed this increase in PNB placement to improved preparation, dexterity, and understanding of the procedure.

Ultrasound IPE has improved the preparation and skill in CRNA student's placing PNB. Because of this collaboration, IPE activities between CRNA and PA faculty have continued to evolve, and have resulted in patient safety improvement events, and skills lab endeavors.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned:

IPE collaboration is an effective way to share resources, and improve learner outcomes. By identifying key interprofessional relationships and resources, we can bring subject matter experts from other disciplines online to address curricular needs.