



Atrium Health

Optimizing Simulation Curriculum within a Multi-Track APP Fellowship

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Introduction

Atrium Health’s Center for Advanced Practice (CAP) operates the largest and most clinically diverse Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Fellowship in the country, annually training 40 APPs across 16 different specialties.

Financial analysis demonstrates economic and operational benefits to centralizing general curriculum, which prevents duplicity at each service line level, optimizes educator’s time, and enhances cross-specialty experiential learning.

With such vast specialties represented in our program, it was imperative for CAP to demonstrate a sustainable way to provide clinical training in the APP Fellowship.

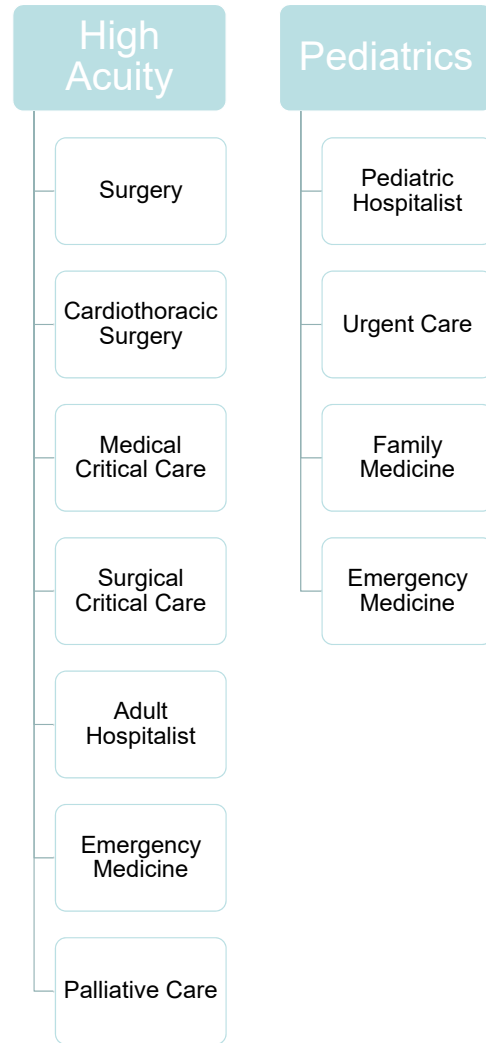
Purpose

To demonstrate how simulated patient scenarios, fostered by collaborative and team-based discussions, could improve patient care, clinical decision-making abilities, and communication across different specialties.

Description

APP Fellow tracks were identified as high acuity, pediatrics, or both. Fellows met in their respective groups, in a psychologically safe environment, multiple times throughout their first three months of Fellowship, to critically think, use evidence-based-practice to guide decision-making, and professionally communicate with those present for their simulation case. The scenarios were uniquely authored by the facilitator, specifically for each unique training specialty, but the case evolution incorporated an aspect of another specialty or specialties and area of care. All participants were surveyed after their collective Simulation case experience.

APP Fellows



Results

Since **Spring 2019**, anonymous feedback has been elicited from:

- 62 unique High Acuity APP Fellows
- 35 unique Pediatrics APP Fellows

Percentage	Agreement	Question about Simulation
100%	Strongly Agree	Objectives for Simulation were clear
100%	Strongly Agree	Increased ability to develop a differential diagnosis
100%	Agree and Strongly Agree	Increased ability to develop treatment plans
100%	Strongly Agree	Increased confidence with decision making
100%	Agree and Strongly Agree	Improved confidence with communication during patient care
100%	Strongly Agree	Greater understanding of systems-based practice
100%	Strongly Agree	Simulation helped equip me for clinical practice

Discussion

The high acuity and pediatrics APP Fellows have greatly benefited from a cross-specialty Simulation curriculum, evidenced by their perceived agreement to their participation survey. For specialty-specific medical training programs, like APP Fellowships, this model of training, early in their training career, can help teach valuable clinical pearls, and professional communication to equip them for effective patient care. The APP Fellows of similar but different specialties reported equal and favorable experience with increased knowledge and confidence with decision-making, with an appreciation for enhanced understanding of systems-based practice. With modern medicine becoming more team focused, this type of teaching mimics the reality of innovations in care delivery. For smaller programs, this type of model may even prove to be financially advantageous. This multi-specialty engagement in medical education has the potential to not only to improve clinical learning, but other professional learning as well. Future areas of work include expanding this type of clinically innovative work to other health professions, determining the objectives ways simulation impacts clinical learning (outside of their perception), and the financial benefits of this interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaboration.

References

Available upon request

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