A Model for Developing Scholarly Advanced Practice Athletic Trainers in Post-Professional Education Programs
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**Context:** The Institute of Medicine has called for global improvement of healthcare delivery and educational programs for healthcare practitioners. The ongoing healthcare crisis and current economic challenges necessitate innovative educational approaches for advanced practice post-professional education. **Objective:** The purpose of this poster presentation is to present a unique framework for post-professional doctoral programs that develop advanced scholarly practitioners. **Background:** Until recently, post-professional athletic training education programs have utilized a primarily academic model with unstructured and unrelated clinical experiences. **Description:** The model was constructed as a 50-50 hybrid (traditional academic and traditional residency), which provides opportunities for immediate application of advanced practice knowledge and behaviors within the framework of scholarly clinical research. Early in the program, students develop a Plan of Advanced Practice (PoAP) to guide their studies. **Clinical Advantage:** This Plan is a theory-driven action-research model wherein students focus on a specific area of interest to gain advanced practice expertise. Students evaluate their current strengths and weaknesses, and design a plan to add depth to their knowledge and skills. The PoAP specifically evaluates evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, quality improvement, and professionalism and is dynamically developed throughout the program culminating in the Final Residency Findings report. The PoAP provides structure for an individualized program of study and builds the foundation for a Dissertation of Clinical Practice Improvement (DCPI). The DCPI incorporates a portfolio of advanced practice, which provides evidence of student achievement in gaining advanced practice expertise in their chosen focus area. Components of the DCPI include: original applied clinical research manuscript, individual clinical outcomes data, formal reflective practice of patient care (journals), PoAP, faculty/attending clinician (mentor) evaluation, resident self-evaluation, final residency findings, and impact on the residency site. The original applied clinical research project provides students the opportunity to examine their practice within the context of changes they observe in their patients. Research project evaluation criteria include outcomes measures for: patient centered care, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, use of healthcare informatics and, professionalism. These outcomes measures provide quantifiable data for quality professional practices and structure for student’s reflective practice journals. **Conclusion:** This visionary model provides a dynamic framework for advanced practice and clinical research that fosters partnerships with other health professionals for greater collaboration and visibility that facilitates advancement of the profession through the development of scholarly advanced practice athletic trainers. **Key Words:** Advanced Practice, Plan, Dissertation of Clinical Practice Improvement **Word Count:** 394