An oral examination in defense of the project for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner

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B.S. Nursing Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College, 2012
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Nurse Practitioner Student Confidence and Competence in Common Women’s Health Diagnostic Procedures

Date: July 10, 2020
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract
Problem: In areas with limited health resources, such as Guatemala, cost-effective and reliable methods for sexually transmitted infection and cervical cancer screenings are needed. The purpose of this Quality Improvement (QI) project was to develop standardized training in Vaginal Wet Mount (VWM) preparation and cervical cancer screening using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) for Nurse Practitioner students who traveled to Guatemala for a week-long global immersion experience.

Methods: This was a QI project with a pre and post intervention design utilizing a convenience sample of 10 University of Missouri-St. Louis Nurse Practitioner students who traveled to Guatemala on medical mission trip from January 13, 2020-January 18, 2020.

Results: A total of 10 Nurse Practitioner students scored their personal clinical confidence in performing women’s health diagnostic procedures and were rated by the investigator for clinical competence when performing these skills. A significant positive correlation was observed between competence and confidence on the final clinic day ($r_p = 0.94, p < .001$) with a 104% increase in confidence and a 38% increase in competence.

Implications for Practice: A standardized teaching tool combined with clinical practice can improve Nurse Practitioner students’ confidence and competence in performing women’s health diagnostic procedures.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Louise Miller, Ph.D. - Chairperson
Natalie Murphy, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC
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