The Advanced Practice Provider in an Emerging Specialty

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Learning Objectives

- Discuss the differences and similarities between Advanced Practice Providers
- Discuss the various roles that Advanced Practice Providers currently play in pediatric urgent care and how these can expand in the future
- Discuss the implications of this emerging specialty on Advanced Practice Provider education
History of Nurse Practitioners

- Began in early 1960’s
- First NP graduated in 1966
- Pediatric NP specialty began in early 1970’s
- Pediatric NP curricula were standardized in 1978
- Estimated >200,000 NP’s in the US today
- ~6-8% are PNP’s
Education & Certification

- Pediatric Primary Care
  - First certification exam given in 1977
  - Majority of PNP’s
  - Role definition: “to provide care to children from birth through young adult with an in-depth knowledge and experience in pediatric primary health care including well child care and prevention/management of common pediatric acute illnesses and chronic conditions.” (Pediatric Nursing Certification Board)
Education & Certification

- Pediatric Acute Care
  - First certification exam given in 2005 (PNCB)
  - Wide range of inpatient, ICU, EM and subspecialty training
  - Role definition: “designed to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of children with complex acute and chronic health conditions. AC-PNPs respond to rapidly changing clinical conditions, including the recognition and management of emerging health crises, organ dysfunction and failure.” (Pediatric Nursing Certification Board)
History of Physician Assistants

- Began in 1960’s
- First class – Duke University 1967
- Gained federal acceptance in 1970’s
- Estimated ~102,000 (2014) in United States
- Only 2.8% in pediatrics
Clinical rotations across the lifespan and across specialties – OB, Pedi, Women’s Health, Behavioral/Mental Health, Surgical Conditions

“While patients often use emergency departments for primary care complaints, students are expected to interact with patients needing emergent care in this setting. Urgent care centers may be used for supervised clinical practice experiences, but do not replace the requirement to have students in emergency departments. “ (Accreditation Review Commission on Education of the Physician Assistant)
Education & Certification

- Pediatric Urgent Care
  - Mix of Acute Care and Primary Care certified PNPs and PAs
  - No formal educational track/program to address Pediatric Urgent Care
  - No specific certification exam
Advanced Practice Provider Education

◦ Primary care vs. Acute care vs. Urgent Care
  ◦ Curriculum
  ◦ Competencies
  ◦ Clinical rotations
  ◦ Faculty

◦ Fellowships
  ◦ Certification issues
What do we need for APPs in Pediatric Urgent Care?

- Clinical guidelines
- Urgent care competencies
- Urgent care focused education/training
- Urgent care specialty certification
History of Urgent Care

- Began in late 1970’s
- Rapid growth beginning in 1990’s
- Roughly 9,000 UC centers in the US today
  - Federal registration not required
- Recently expanding into Pediatric specific centers
American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine

- Founded in 1997
- Mission “to advance the profession of Urgent Care Medicine by elevating its standards through education, basic and advanced training, and to encourage physicians to seek board certification in Urgent Care Medicine.”
Professional Development in Urgent Care

- **Urgent Care Association Of America (UCAOA)**
  - Founded in 2004
  - Vision “To be the catalyst for the recognition of urgent care as an essential part of the health care system.”

- **Urgent Care College of Physicians**
  - Founded by members of UCAOA
  - Supported by UCAOA
  - “emphasis on physicians and the clinical practice of urgent care medicine”

- **Fellowships in general Urgent Care**
  - started in 2006
Expansion into Pediatrics

- Society for Pediatric Urgent Care
  - Founded in 2014
  - Mission to “strive to establish standards for high quality, unscheduled pediatric care outside of the emergency department setting in collaboration with the Medical Home.”
  - APP representation on the Board of Directors
  - Working to provide Pediatric Urgent Care specific educational content
Where are APPs providing urgent care?

- Emergency departments
- “Fast Tracks” or urgent care clinics within hospital settings
- Free-standing urgent care centers
- Urgent care clinics within primary care offices
APP Roles in Urgent Care

- Providers/Direct Patient Care
- Program Leads
- Urgent Care directors/coordinators
- Educators
References

- Pediatric Nurses Certification Board
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- American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine
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- Urgent Care Association of America
  www.ucaoa.org
- Society for Pediatric Urgent Care
  www.urgentcarepeds.org
- Urgent Care Foundation
  www.urgentcarefoundation.org
- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
  www.nccpa.net
- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.
  www.arc-pa.org