

Integrating Telemental Health and Experiential Learning into a Family Nurse Practitioner Program

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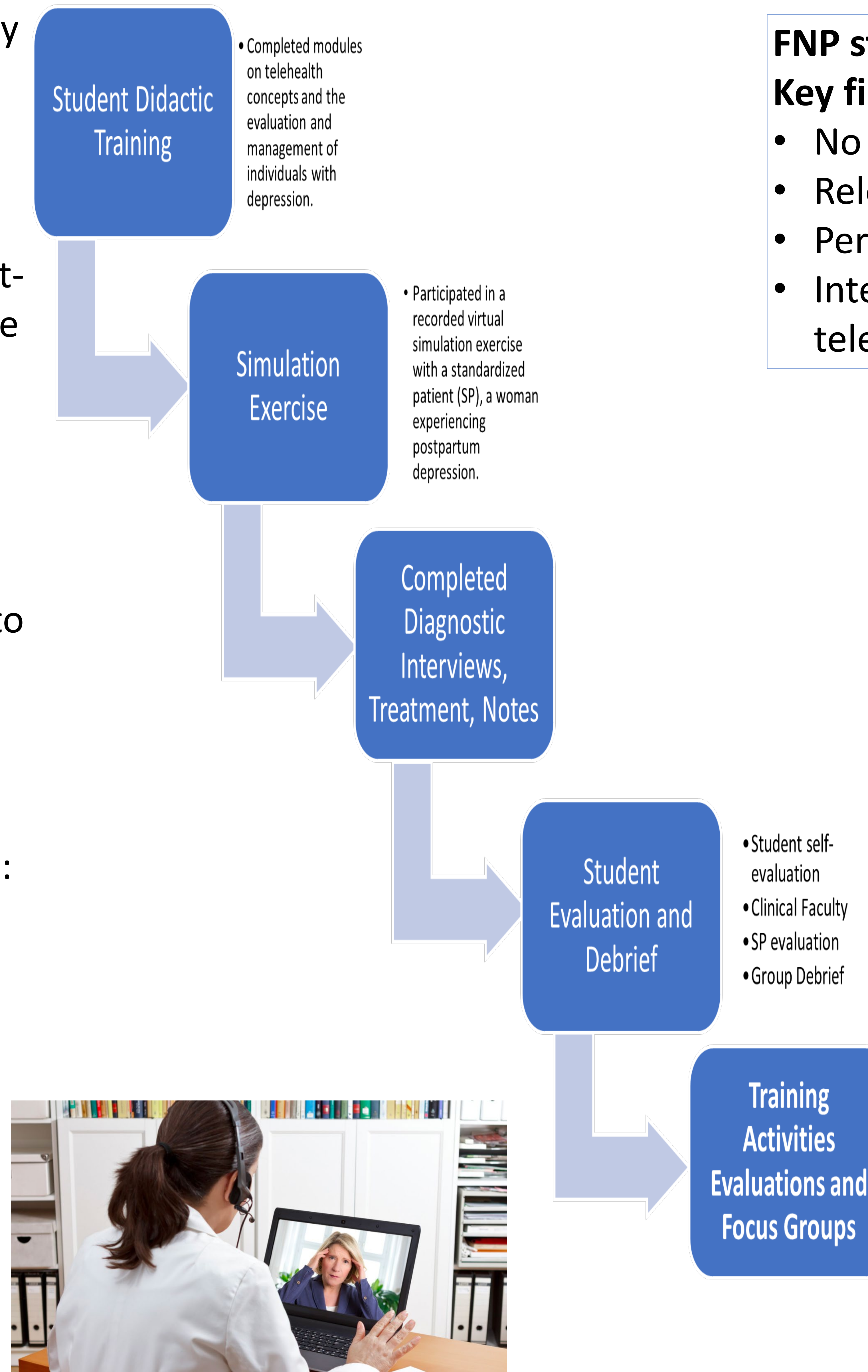
Background and Significance

- Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) are primary providers for rural and disadvantaged populations; may be the first to encounter patients with psychiatric problems.
- Telehealth is vital for providing access to cost-effective quality care to patients at a distance or when face-to-face encounters are not feasible.
- The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (2017) endorsed the integration of telehealth delivery content into NP program curricula as an innovative solution to improve access to care.
- We incorporated didactic & experiential training activities in two FNP core courses to:
 - increase graduate nurse competences in the provision of psychiatric care
 - expose students to use of telehealth technology

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Telehealth Training Process



Evaluation

FNP students trained to date: 128

Key findings from post-training survey (n= 58):

- No prior exposure to telehealth delivery – 78%
- Relevant to graduate learning needs - 99%
- Perceived telehealth competencies increased - 83%
- Interest In learning more about telehealth/using telehealth in future practice – 94%

Frequent comments related to:

- Chance to practice clinical skills/try virtual delivery in a safe environment
- Increased comfort with psych assessment
- Anxiety about a new experience/technology
- “This was a great learning experience. I wish we could complete more of these.”
- “Super helpful to become familiar with telehealth with the current state of COVID”

Key focus group recommendations:

- Keep activity as course requirement
- Expand to include physical assessment
- Add additional scenarios
- Practice opportunities prior to encounter