Did you know that PAs may initiate restraints if certain provisions are met? In order to manage violent or self-destructive behavior that puts patient, staff or others at risk for physical harm or safety, PAs can provide the required initial face-to-face encounter (if allowed by state law and hospital policy). As soon as possible following the face-to-face encounter, the PA must consult the attending physician responsible for care. This consultation does not need to be in person, but can occur by telephone. At that time, a PA can obtain a verbal order for restraint from a physician and follow with co-signature of the actual order.

CMS Conditions of Participation requires that the use of restraint or seclusion “be in accordance with the order of a physician or other licensed independent practitioner (LIP).” An LIP, according to the Joint Commission, is a person who provides “care and services without direction or supervision.” This does not currently include a PA or NP in states without independent practice. Even if a PA or NP orders restraints, CMS Conditions of Participation states that the “attending physician must be consulted as soon as possible if the attending physician did not order the restraint or seclusion.” Each hospital’s institutional policies and procedures need to address specific definitions, such as the time frame in which “as soon as possible” occurs.

For further guidance, consult your institution’s administrative team. You may also reference CMS Conditions of Participation §482.13(e).

Legislative Corner
Update on LB 772

LB772 was proposed by Senator Matt Williams after the approval of the amendments by the Nebraska State Board of Health Technical Review Committee in September 2019. The Nebraska Academy of PAs (NAPA) requested specific revisions to existing laws governing the practice of PAs in the state. NAPA believes that the proposed changes do not represent a change in PA scope of practice; rather, these changes are a modernization of the statutes regulating the practice. These changes allow PAs to continue to provide high-quality patient care as part of a collaborative healthcare team while also reducing the administrative burdens currently experienced by both PAs and the physicians with whom they practice. LB 772 had great support on the floor on January 24, 2020. Tami Dolphens, PA-C, Kurt Schmeckpeper, PA-C and the Nebraska Medical Association testified in-person supporting the passage of LB772. Furthermore, the Nebraska Hospital Association, Immanuel Hospital, the Nebraska Pharmacists Association, and AARP provided letters in support of LB772 specifically addressing provider shortages across our state.

— Shaun Horak, DMSc, PA-C
**Student News**

**2019 White Coat Ceremony**
The UNMC College of Allied Health Professionalism Ceremony took place at Baxter Arena on Friday, August 23, 2019 in Omaha. Sixty-six incoming PA students received their white coat in this beloved rite of passage as an official introduction to their professional program. The ceremony focused on professionalism, encompassing the concepts of ethical behavior, compassionate care and service to others.

**Kearney Children’s Museum Interprofessional Event**
Students enrolled in our UNMC PA program on the Kearney campus participated in Free Family Fun Night at the Kearney Children’s Museum, an interprofessional activity with PT and Nursing departments. The PA students discussed healthy eating. The activity consisted of having the children place healthy foods items on one plate and unhealthy food items on the other plate. We had “fake food” for the children to play with. The PA students then talked with the children and parents about what they usually have for dinner and how to incorporate more healthy options. We also had a coloring page the children could take with them.

**Pictionary: Student Wellness Activity**
UNMC PA students in the Class of 2021 enjoy a monthly interpersonal student wellness activity. Pictured here, Omaha student attendees play medical Pictionary, working with a team of classmates to draw and identify medical terminology. The activity created a fun environment for students to interact and collaborate with other students, faculty, and staff, while also emphasizing curriculum content.
Class of 2019 Graduation
Congratulations to our latest graduating Class of 2019! And a big thank you to our highly valued preceptors who make it all possible!

MRASH Conference
As part of a CS-CASH Pilot Grant awarded to the UNMC Division of PA Education, six students from the UNMC PA Class of 2020 attended the 2019 Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference in Marshalltown, IA. This year’s conference theme was “Reframe, Refocus, Rebuild,” focusing on emergency and disaster preparedness and response.

The conference brought together approximately 150 safety and health researchers and professionals, health care providers, farmers, and rural advocates all committed to building safer and healthier agriculture industry and communities. The event gave participating students the opportunity to network and collaborate with agricultural professionals on current programs, resources and research in agricultural health.

Additionally, UNMC PA faculty members Carey Wheelhouse, MSPAS, PA-C and Mia Hyde, MPAS, PA-C presented a poster on their pilot grant project, titled, “Improving Agricultural Worker Health and Safety Awareness through Multimodal, Case-Based Physician Assistant Education.” UNMC PA faculty members Annie Wildermuth, MMS, PA-C and Wayne Mathews, MPAS, PA-C are also co-investigators on the project.
Preceptor Spotlight

Dr. Ryan Mullane is a general and interventional nephrologist at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine. He has been practicing at this site for 1.5 years, following completion of his 2-year fellowship at UNMC. Dr. Mullane has been precepting medical and physician assistant students for that entire time period. Ryan is originally from New Jersey and completed his medical training in Virginia and Arizona, prior to moving to Omaha.

What does a typical day look like for a PA student on rotation with you?
A typical day for PA students on the nephrology rotation begins with rounding on 2-4 hospitalized patients. They then meet with our team (nephrology attending, medical residents, and other students) for teaching rounds on 30-40 hospitalized patients. We usually break for lunch after teaching rounds prior to re-convening for afternoon teaching sessions on a variety of topics or doing other educational activities (such as central line simulation training and nephrology jeopardy). We also incorporate time in the outpatient nephrology clinic, outpatient hemodialysis unit, transplant nephrology service, and in the procedure lab for interventional nephrology.

What expectations do you have for PA students on rotation with you?
Our biggest expectation is for an interest in learning. We take care of a wide variety of complex patients and want students to be involved in their care. We (our group) want the students to constantly be learning and growing.

Why precept?
It’s extremely rewarding to help students grow and to show them how amazing the field of nephrology is. The constant interaction with bright and well-prepared students is a great motivator for me to be the best clinician educator I can be.

What advice do you have for others considering precepting students, but not yet committed?
Go for it. Teaching UNMC PA students is an incredible experience and very enjoyable. Being a preceptor is a great privilege and anyone with the opportunity should pursue it.

Student comments from Kurt Andree, Class of 2019:
Dr. Mullane is an excellent preceptor and provides a great environment for students. He stated several times during the rotation that we were there to learn, and the structure of the rotation stood by this principle. He encouraged us to see interesting cases and ask questions about the patients’ care, even if several of us saw the same patient. Even on busy days, he would make it a point to sit down and teach on relevant topics and often asked what people wanted to discuss. Dr. Mullane loves to teach and makes complex nephrology topics easy to understand. After a few days, I understood electrolyte abnormalities and management better than I ever had before. He always brought the discussion to a clinically relevant focus. He does an excellent job of engaging students and provides very constructive feedback on how to improve. I always felt welcome to ask questions as he treats everyone with the utmost respect. He is one of the most down-to-earth preceptors I have had the privilege of studying under, and I know that future students will benefit from his passion for nephrology and education.

Preceptor Perks

Adjunct Faculty Status for Clinical Preceptors
You can become an adjunct faculty member of the UNMC PA Program! To qualify, preceptors should meet the following criteria:

1. Active PA Preceptors that have hosted student rotations for at least 1 year
2. Preceptors committed to continuing to host rotations in consecutive years AND/OR
3. Commitment to ongoing lecture presentations or clinical skills teaching in the didactic year

If you are interested in inquiring about qualification, benefits with adjunct faculty status or application, please contact: Mia Hyde at mia.hyde@unmc.edu.

Who can be a Preceptor?
If you are a licensed health care provider and have an interest in educating students in your medical practice, please contact the Clinical Education Team for the University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program at mia.hyde@unmc.edu or call 308-865-1128.

unmc.edu/alliedhealth/education/pa
Category I CME Credit

- The UNMC Division of PA Education is approved by AAPA to award AAPA Category I CME credit to eligible PA preceptors. PAs may earn a maximum of 20 AAPA Category 1 CME credits for clinical precepting during any single calendar year.
- For further details on Category I CME certificates, please contact carey.wheelhouse@unmc.edu.

Did you know...?

- Suicide is ranked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the 10th leading cause of death in the US.
- Nearly half of those who die by suicide had visited a healthcare provider in the prior month.
- The Joint Commission recommends that ALL patients who present to ANY medical setting receive suicide screening.
- There are a number of standardized and validated assessment tools that can be used in healthcare settings by front-line staff.

For more information, see Missed Opportunities for Suicide Risk Assessment. Continuing education credit is available for healthcare professionals who complete the case exercise and create an account with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality at: https://psnet.ahrq.gov/

Follow us on Facebook!
facebook.com/unmcpa

Mark Your Calendar! Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | 2PM - 3PM
2020 Evidence-Based Healthcare Forum

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions students will be presenting posters exhibiting their scholarly activity and current research projects. Please attend to discuss and stay abreast of updates in best clinical practices.

Omaha: Michael F. Sorrell Center - Truhlsen Event Center, UNMC Campus
Kearney: Health Science Education Complex, 2402 University Drive

For additional information, please contact:
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