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**Abstract Category:** DNP in Clinical Leadership

**Title:** Implementation of a Bone Health Program by the DNP in an orthopedic specialty practice as program director

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to promote the clinical leadership role the Doctorate of Nursing can provide as the Bone Health Program director in an orthopedic specialty practice.

**Objective 1:** Promote the role of the DNP as an expert in application of evidence based practices.

**Objective 2:** Discuss how the DNP can evaluate and monitor outcomes and the quality of care for the post fracture patient over the age of 50

**Objective 3:** Identify how the DNP can assist in health promotion and risk reduction for the patient with low bone mass or poor bone quality as program director of a Bone Health Program

**Abstract:**

ABSTRACT

To promote the role of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) in an orthopedic specialty practice as director of a Bone Health Program to manage osteopenia or osteoporosis in men and women over age 50 with a history of fracture.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this presentation is to promote the clinical leadership role the DNP can provide as a Bone Health Program director in an orthopedic specialty practice.

RATIONALE

Based on a comprehensive literature review, the research evidence indicates a gap in current practice standards regarding bone health evaluation and treatment in the status post fracture patient with a history of osteopenia or osteoporosis. The research further identifies specialty care advanced practice nurses as playing a key role in closing this gap in the post fracture care of men and women over
the age of 50 who are diagnosed with osteopenia or osteoporosis when evidenced based bone health protocols are initiated soon before or after fracture diagnosis.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program will include assessment by the provider (advanced practice nurse DNP) of the post fracture patient over the age of 50 either while in the acute care setting or as an outpatient in the orthopedic clinic. The assessment will include a bone health evaluation for men and women age 50 or older with a diagnosis of osteopenia or osteoporosis. The protocol will include an educational opportunity for the patient with the provider to discuss current bone health, lifestyle changes recommended and the need for bone density testing. Treatment recommendations for osteoporosis will be included in the consult to emphasize the importance of reducing the risk of future fractures.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of this program will include improved quality of care for the patient with osteoporosis by reducing the risk of future fracture and promoting health through education on falls prevention and safety. Early intervention by a nurse practitioner as program director will capture the patient at the teachable moment for screening and treatment recommendations. This early intervention will improve the bone health of the patient and promote prevention of future fractures.

DISCUSSION

The implications for this program will include improved quality of care for the post fracture male or female patient over 50 with osteoporosis. The impact of fracture reduction in the aging population will help to reduce healthcare cost while improving quality of life.