

BACKGROUND

- Standardized patient testing (SPT) is an integral part of educating Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) students at Saint Anthony College of Nursing (SACN).
- “Patients” are recruited and given a scenario to act out.
- APN students conduct history and physicals, focused examinations, develop treatment plans, and document patient encounters during SPT.
- Each SPT encounter is videotaped to use for feedback.
- Previously, a simulated “paper chart” was used for SPT. This confused students who had only used EMRs and had never used paper documentation.
- Students voiced frustration and asked for up to date methods to review patient information and complete documentation.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Use of an electronic medical record system (EMR) is an important component of modern healthcare.
- The EMR can help improve the delivery of care, decrease medication errors, and improve disease surveillance (Alvandi, 2015).
- Advanced practice nursing (APN) students should be familiar with an EMR charting system in order to provide high quality patient care and complete accurate documentation (Costello, et al., (2016).



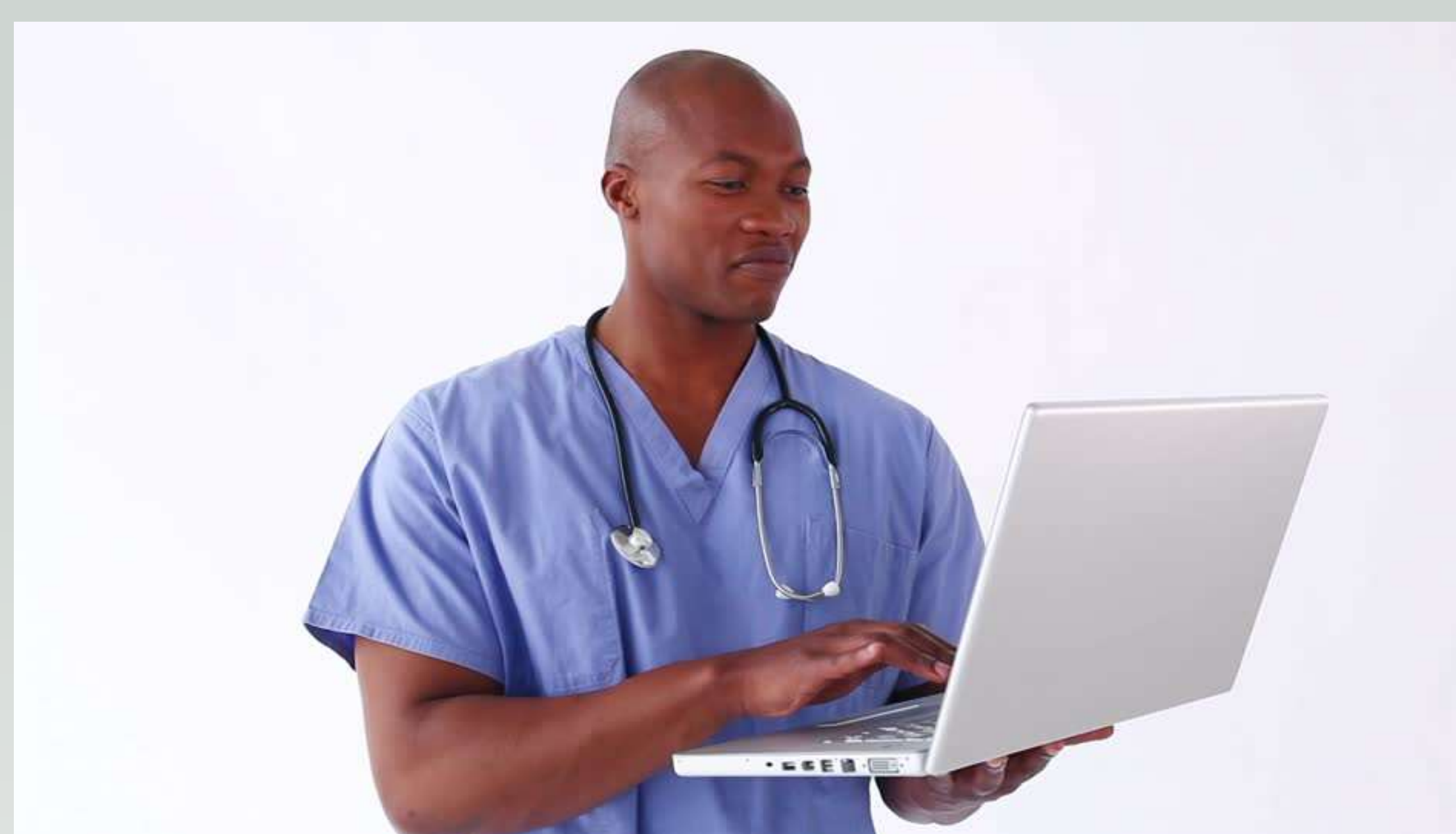
OBJECTIVE

The project objective was to integrate use of an EMR during standardized patient testing (SPT) of APN students.



METHODS

- An application-based project was implemented to transition APN students from the paper charting system to an EMR.
- The health system’s information technology department created standardized patient scenarios within the practice EMR, which were assessed for functionality.
- An interactive computer demonstration was completed on February 2, 2017 for APN students and college faculty.
- Recently, 8 additional patient scenarios have been developed and are being “built” in the practice EMR.
- SPT using the EMR is scheduled for March 2017.



IMPLICATIONS

- Education:** Students voiced an immediate preference for the EMR format.
- SPT now promotes acquisition of EMR skills needed for future APN practice.**
- In the future, EMR format should be integrated into SPT for all graduate clinical courses.**
- Research:** There is a need to conduct formal evaluations regarding EMR format use in SPT.
- Practice:** SACN EMR cases will be used for MD orientation and APN testing at a sister APN program in Peoria.

Using an EMR during SPT can improve patient safety, permit real time charting, and prepare students for the “real world” of APN care.



REFERENCES

- Alvandi, M. (2015, September 24th). Optimizing the effect of electronic health records for healthcare professionals and consumers. *The American Journal of Accountable Care*, 3(3), 27-32.
- Costello, E., Corcoran, M., Barnett, J. S., Birkmeier, Cohn, R., Ekmekci, O...Walker, Bryan. (2016). Information and communication technology to facilitate learning for students in the health professions: Current uses, gaps, and future directions. *Official Journal of the Online Learning*. 18(4), 1-18.