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Implementation and evaluation of a peer review process for advanced practice providers in a university hospital setting

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Statement of the Problem: Over the past decade, implementation of the peer review process for the development of the advanced practice provider (APP) has been emphasized. However, little exists in the literature regarding APN peer review. The peer review process is intended to help demonstrate competency of care, enhance quality improvement measures, and foster the professional growth of the APN.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: APP's serving on a professional governance council within a university teaching hospital developed a model of peer review for APPs. Nine months after the tool was implemented, an anonymous follow up survey was conducted. A follow up request was sent four weeks later to increase the number of respondents. Likert scales were used to elicit subjective data regarding the process.

Results: Survey results show that the peer review process affected APP professional practice positively. Additional research might include pathways for remediation and education of staff, evaluation of alternate methods to improve application to clinical practice and collection of outcome data. The models presented provide a foundation for future refinement to accommodate different APP practice settings. As a result of the wide variation of peer review experiences encountered during our peer review process as well as the different APP practice environments and backgrounds, it would be useful for APPs to share peer review best practices in a more formal setting on a regular basis, such as at regional or national APP conferences and meetings.

Conclusion & Significance: Of 81 APPs who participated in the survey, more than half (52%) felt that the process would directly improve their professional practice.

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