

# DNP Family Care Education: Essentials, Evidence of What's Taught, the Reality of Family Care and Care Needs

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## PURPOSE:

- Present the evidence of graduate nursing education on care of families.
- Identify current literature focused on DNP education and practice outcomes.
- Address family nursing education gaps
- Identify family care needs.
- Recommend needed education & practice changes.

## RESULTS:

### DNP Essentials (AACN, 2006)

- Develop and sustain therapeutic relationships and partnerships with patients (individual, family or group) and other professionals to facilitate optimal care and patient outcomes. **VIII, 3**
- Educate and guide individuals and groups through complex health and situational transitions. **VIII, 6**



## Literature Evidence: What is Taught & Clinical Experience

- Family theories, family assessment taught. Expected to work with families in clinical setting, but no accountability for family clinical outcomes reporting. Only select schools teaching NP family care.



## Family Needs for Care

- Earlier discharge, Less explanations
- Families left to manage symptoms and health resources
- Families provide illness care, often causing families to be overwhelmed, family members to become ill, and changes in family life quality.

## Reality of Family Care Delivery by Nurses

- Families often avoided. Nurses not introduce themselves. Not often check how family members doing
- Caregiver frequently not included in office visit or discharge instructions.
- Less likely to exclude in pediatrics and hospice.



- **GAPS**-Not consider family outcomes
- Nurses often not bother to include
- Solutions are not tracked for family impact

## Changes in DNP & Graduate Education Needed

Require family knowledge & care  
Evidence of family outcome evaluation

## Changes in DNP & NP Practice Needed

- Interact & Involve Families in Patient Care AND planning of care
- Assess family health & illness knowledge, family resources, caregiving
- Make the plan of care to address patient and family needs
- Change care focus to incorporate families. Find out what is working/not working and discuss how to meet goals.