A Brief Educational Intervention to Enhance Nurse Practitioners’ Knowledge, Attitudes and Skin Cancer Counseling Behaviors

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Purpose
The purpose of this project is to determine whether a brief, educational PowerPoint intervention can improve nurse practitioners’ knowledge, attitudes and self-reported behaviors regarding skin cancer and skin cancer prevention counseling.

Background
• Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States.
  - Over 5 million new cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer occur each year.
  - Over 76,000 new cases of melanoma skin cancer are diagnosed each year.
• Rates of skin cancer continue to trend upward in the United States and Arizona (Figure 1).
• In 2014, the Surgeon General issued a Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer:
  - It enlisted providers to aid in preventing skin cancer by counseling patients.
• Nurse practitioners rarely counsel patients about skin cancer prevention.

Sample
Nurse practitioners (n=30-100) practicing at least part-time in Arizona in the outpatient/primary care setting

Project Framework
• Based on published professional guidelines for skin cancer prevention
• Who to counsel:
  - American Academy of Dermatology
    - All populations – children, adolescents, young adults, adults
  - American Academy of Family Physicians
    - Fair skinned individuals between 10-24 years old
  - United States Preventive Services Task Force
    - Fair skinned individuals between 10-24 years old

Anticipated Results and Implications for Practice
• The intervention will improve nurse practitioners’ knowledge, attitudes and self-reported behaviors regarding skin cancer prevention and skin cancer prevention counseling.
• Nurse practitioners’ rates of skin cancer counseling will improve.
• The intervention will be a feasible option for educating nurse practitioners about established guidelines.
• Improved skin cancer counseling by nurse practitioners could ultimately decrease skin cancer rates.
• The project may supplement evidence that brief, web-based education is a feasible platform for educating nurse practitioners in urban and rural areas about important health topics.

Methods
• Human subjects approval by the University of Arizona IRB, to be conducted in Fall 2016
• Single subject pre-test post-test design
• 58-item survey to assess knowledge, attitudes and behaviors completed online at baseline and post-intervention
• 10-minute PowerPoint education intervention addressing study aims:
  - Background and skin cancer trends
  - Skin cancer primary prevention and counseling guidelines
  - Resources for nurse practitioners
• Compare pre-post survey results to determine intervention effect