The SNAPPS-Plus model of clinical supervision: Fostering the translation of evidence into osteopathic clinical practice

Teaching health students to use and implement evidence in clinical practice can be challenging. The SNAPPS-Plus clinical supervision model (Summarize history and findings; Narrow the differential; Analyze the differential; Probe preceptors about uncertainties; Plan management; Select case-related issues for self-study) is designed to develop students' skills in evidence-based practice within a structured clinical supervision framework. The purpose of this research was to implement and evaluate the SNAPPS-Plus clinical supervision model in the Master of Osteopathic Medicine program at Southern Cross University.

This mixed methods study was conducted in three phases: 1) collecting baseline data via surveys of students and supervisors; 2) training supervisors in the use of the SNAPPS-Plus supervision model and training students how to conduct PICO searches to answer clinically relevant questions; and 3) implementing and evaluating the SNAPPS-Plus supervision model via PICO search results, surveys and interviews.

Students initially resisted taking on the additional work of retrieving and appraising clinically relevant evidence to inform treatment plans for their patients, but their ability to both locate and use clinically relevant evidence improved over the course of the trial. Supervisors reported that they themselves became more focused on developing students' use of evidence in clinical practice. Further research is required to confirm the effectiveness of the SNAPPS-Plus model in the long-term translation of evidence into osteopathic clinical practice.