

Introduction

The mission of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) is to empower pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and their healthcare partners to enhance child and family health through practice, leadership, advocacy, education and research. Central to this mission is delineating the evidence for practice. NAPNAP's goal in developing this Research Agenda is to identify gaps in evidence for practice, thus providing direction for research activities to NAPNAP, as well as other organizations, and to facilitate the work of interdisciplinary groups and individual scientists who address these gaps. These gaps may include missing, inconclusive or contradictory evidence. Areas of clinical focus for this Research Agenda reflect the work of NAPNAP's members—primarily pediatric nurse practitioners, family nurse practitioners, school nurse practitioners, neonatal nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, educators, and researchers providing primary, acute, and specialty care for pediatric populations. This agenda informs the membership and nurse scientists regarding NAPNAP's child health research priorities. The agenda can also give direction to multiple NAPNAP organizational constituents such as the NAPNAP Executive Board, regional chapters, and affiliated groups (e.g., NAPNAP Foundation and the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners [AFPNP]) for prioritizing research-related activities. This agenda was developed through a process that included the survey of members about the use and relevance of existing Research Agenda priorities and exemplars. Revised statements based on this feedback were distributed to members via an online survey. The revised Research Agenda consists of broad clinical and professional priorities to address the needs and research interests of members.

Clinical Priorities

I. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

This priority area includes studies that address developing and testing new screening strategies, measuring outcomes related to education and anticipatory guidance, and studying interventions to enhance adoption of and adherence to health promotion and disease prevention practices, including those related to mental health, obesity, and health literacy.

II. Self-management of Acute and Chronic Conditions

This priority area includes studies that address self-management of acute and chronic conditions for infants, children, and adolescents individually and in the context of their families, healthcare settings and team based care, schools, and communities.

III. Mental Health for Children and Families

This priority area includes studies that address developmental, behavioral, cognitive, emotional and psychosocial challenges including the effects of stress experienced by infants, children, and adolescents individually and in the context of their families, healthcare settings, schools and communities.

IV. Safety

This priority area includes studies that address child and family safety in home, community, and health care settings including the studies focused on injuries, infections, maltreatment, or violence and environmental or system issues that affect safety of care delivered in pediatric settings.

V. Children and Families Dealing with Acute or Critical Health Issues

This priority area includes studies that address assessment and management including complementary and alternative therapies of children experiencing acute or critical health issues due to an acute event or illness or chronic illness as well as issues that arise in transitions in care.

VI. Obesity

This priority area includes studies that address increased understanding of factors that increase the risk of childhood obesity as well as strategies to reduce the incidence and complications associated with childhood obesity.

Professional and System Priorities

I. Role and Practice Issues

This priority area includes studies that address the impact and related issues of the evolving PNP role, including barriers to practice and role implementation, reimbursement issues, impact of technology, and scope of practice issues as well as studies that demonstrate the value of PNP care.

II. Organizational, Systems, and Environmental Issues

This priority area includes studies that identify and test interventions aimed at eliminating health disparities affecting children and families across cultural, geographic and economic boundaries.

III. Quality of Care

This priority area includes studies that address safety and patient and family outcomes across a variety of care health care models and settings.

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