

Write That Prescription! An Interactive Online Activity to Promote Nurse Practitioner Skill in Composing Prescription Medication Orders: A Case Report

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Introduction

- The initiative was development of an educational activity promoting nurse practitioner preparation in composing safe, legally valid, patient centered medication prescriptions and orders. Scant evidence was found suggesting medical students are not taught to prepare prescription orders as part of their education. No literature was found regarding the education of nurse practitioner students on how to write a prescription.¹⁻³

Purpose

- The purpose of the educational activity was to provide nurse practitioner students in advanced pharmacology opportunities to practice composing legally valid, safe, patient centered medication prescriptions and orders in an online classroom environment.

Methods

- Write That Prescription!* is an interactive drag-and-drop activity that was developed to promote nurse practitioner students' skill in composing accurate and appropriate medication prescriptions in a computerized environment. An e-learning developer was given a brief patient scenario for each *Write That Prescription!* activity, along with a list of items that included correct and incorrect elements of the prescription. The student would need to drag the correct element to the correct location of the prescription pad. An incorrect selection would bounce back to the list of draggable items, whereas a correct selection would remain in place. The activity would automatically be submitted as complete once all correct items were placed in the correct location of the prescription pad. Twenty-six total *Write That Prescription!* activities were created for modules 2 through 14 of an online advanced pharmacology course for primary care nurse practitioner students.

1 Write that Prescription!
Valsartan/HCTZ

Date of office visit: 12/15/2021. Juan Martínez, age 65, presents for a routine yearly exam. He needs his maintenance medications refilled, simvastatin 40 mg and valsartan/HCTZ 80 mg/12.5 mg. His insurance requires a 3 month supply with refills. He takes each medication once a day. Drag and drop each required element to the prescription, then click Submit.

Name/ID _____ DOB _____
Address _____ Date _____
Rx

Refill _____ times
Signature _____

10/8/55
Juan Martínez
12/15/21
Refills: none
Dispense #90 (ninety)
Take one tablet by mouth every morning.
Dispense #60 (sixty)
Your Signature
Valsartan/HCTZ 80 mg/12.5 mg
Take one tablet by mouth at bedtime
Refills: Three (3)
10/8/56

Reset Undo Submit

Results

- One nurse practitioner student needed to complete advanced pharmacology to start their clinical practicum courses. The course was offered to this student as an independent study during the fall semester of 2022. This student completed all assigned *Write That Prescription!* Activities.



Limitations

- Additional use of the activity will be needed for further evaluation. No generalizations can be made based on a case report. Replication of the activity in additional contexts will require technological expertise which could be a potential barrier to use of the activity.

Conclusions/Implications for Practice

- Given the projected need for nurse practitioners in the primary care workforce, educational activities providing pharmacology content on the mechanics of prescription writing may enable nurse practitioner students to be "practice ready" upon graduation and will support the primary care workforce while potentially decreasing errors in medication orders and prescriptions. Improved patient safety and outcomes will then be the result.

References