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# A Clinical Escape Room for Nurse Practitioner Students: An Innovative Teaching Strategy

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# Abstract:

Due to lack of opportunity, nurse practitioner (NP) students may complete their clinical rotations without being exposed to many high-acuity, low frequency disease states. NPs need to be able to readily recognize and apply their diagnostic, and critical thinking skills to low frequency clinical conditions where prompt diagnosis yields improved patient outcomes.

The literature supports innovative teaching strategies that engage learners, such as an escape room environment, but there is no current evidence that an escape room has been used effectively for NP students.

This project will explore the feasibility and efficacy of an escape room activity for adult- gerontologic acute care NP students. The aim of the escape room activity is to promote critical thinking, team building, and encourage collaboration while performing under pressure. The proposed activity will allow students to solve puzzles, look for clues, and collaborate with others to “escape” before the clock runs out. The simulation scenario

will challenge the student’s skills to manage an acute, decompensating patient in a timely manner. A post-experience survey of participants will assess the student’s quality and perceptions of learning.