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Creating a guideline for STI testing in the pediatric population

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Conceptual Framework

The Synergy Model (SM) for patient care has been used in rural nursing practices in congruence with the Rural Nursing Theory to help guide providers and patients to optimal health. Montgomery, Sutton, & Pare (2017) state “The basic tenants of the Synergy Model compliment the Rural Nursing Theory... and allow clinical nurses the ability to meet the needs of patients from time of conception to end of life” (pg 88). These theories can be used to guide the education on the importance of STD screening to not only patients, but their families and providers as well. This model highlights the four major concepts of the nursing metaparadigm which include, health, environment, person, and nursing, and is applicable to rural nursing practice, environments, and populations.

According to Montgomery, Sutton, and Pare (2017), “ SM illustrates the true value of patient-centered care and the achievement of optimal health status.” (p.88) The first concept, health, is described as what the patient decides it is. This model recognizes that each person has a different view on their definition of health. The SM model preserves patient-centered care, allowing them to drive their health care delivery. The ultimate goal of SM is to allow patients to be a holistic being, with their own ideas and concerns, instead of requiring them to conform to someone else’s ideas of their health and healthcare delivery (Montgomery, Sutton, and Pare, 2017). Establishing positive changes in rural healthcare settings can be a challenge; however, with proper education, while allowing the patient to be the champion of their health, can help patients make the right step towards doing what is best for their health. The second concept, environment, is explained as embracing the patient, family, and community. In rural communities, healthcare resource availability is scarce. This is directly related to rural patients being isolated from increased healthcare accessibility such as nurses with advanced clinical

inquiry skills, predictability of mental, physical, and emotional health needs and the patient's ability to keenly engage in their decision care making (Montgomery, Sutton, and Pare, 2017). Another aspect of the Synergy Model is person. The Synergy Model and Rural Nursing Theory allow for the individual needs of each patient to be met through this project, whether that be screening for STDs in the clinic or providing resources for outside testing due to privacy concerns or insurance issues. The Synergy Model and Rural Nursing Theory also discuss the aspect of the nurse. Montgomery et al. (2017) state “Matching nurse competencies to patient needs on a model that allows for the integration of specific patient needs demonstrates versatility” (pg 88).

These theoretical frameworks allow for the health care professional to be informed about the individual needs of their patients and treat them accordingly. By using the SM model, we can understand the population’s barriers such as accessibility, affordability, accommodation, availability, and acceptability and learn how to better care for their healthcare needs. The synergy that can be created between the providers and the patients in rural communities can help maximize resources, create optimal patient-centered outcomes, and allow for optimal care to help break down the barriers within healthcare. This project utilizes this model due to the individualized needs and concerns of each patient that the provider will address, such as need for STD testing, STD screening on appropriate patients, but also providing resources to these patients as some may have privacy concerns due to being minors.

