To promote participation of UM Senior Nursing Students in the Community Amputee Network (UCAN) support group utilizing the PFCC Model.

- PFCC is an innovative approach to planning, delivery and evaluation of health care grounded in mutually beneficial partnerships among health care providers, patients and families.
- PFCC concepts are information sharing, dignity and respect, participation and collaboration.
- PFCC is applicable to all ages and can be practiced in any health care setting.
- Nursing students can be involved in outpatient support groups to provide valuable resources and support to patients and their families while learning the concepts of PFCC beyond the scope of hospitalization.

UM Senior Nursing Students facilitated two amputee support group meetings providing health care screening, patient and family education and a sense of community support. Nursing students prepared patient education information related to heart health including diet and exercise, shared recipe's with a cooking demonstration, screened knowledge and blood pressures, and promoted lively discussion and involvement by support group members.

Support group members shared their perceptions with the nursing students of helpful nursing behaviors which promote lifestyle acceptance and adaptation to having an amputation.

This exploratory project found mutually experienced satisfaction and learning occurred as a result of this experience.

Students learned that listening to the patient’s story helped to individualize the plan for home, and mutual goal setting results in a better transition.

Further study is warranted to measure the benefits to nursing students, patients and their family members of student involvement in PFCC support groups.

References

