

Application and Integration of an Oral Health Curriculum into PA Student Clinical Practice

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School of
Medicine

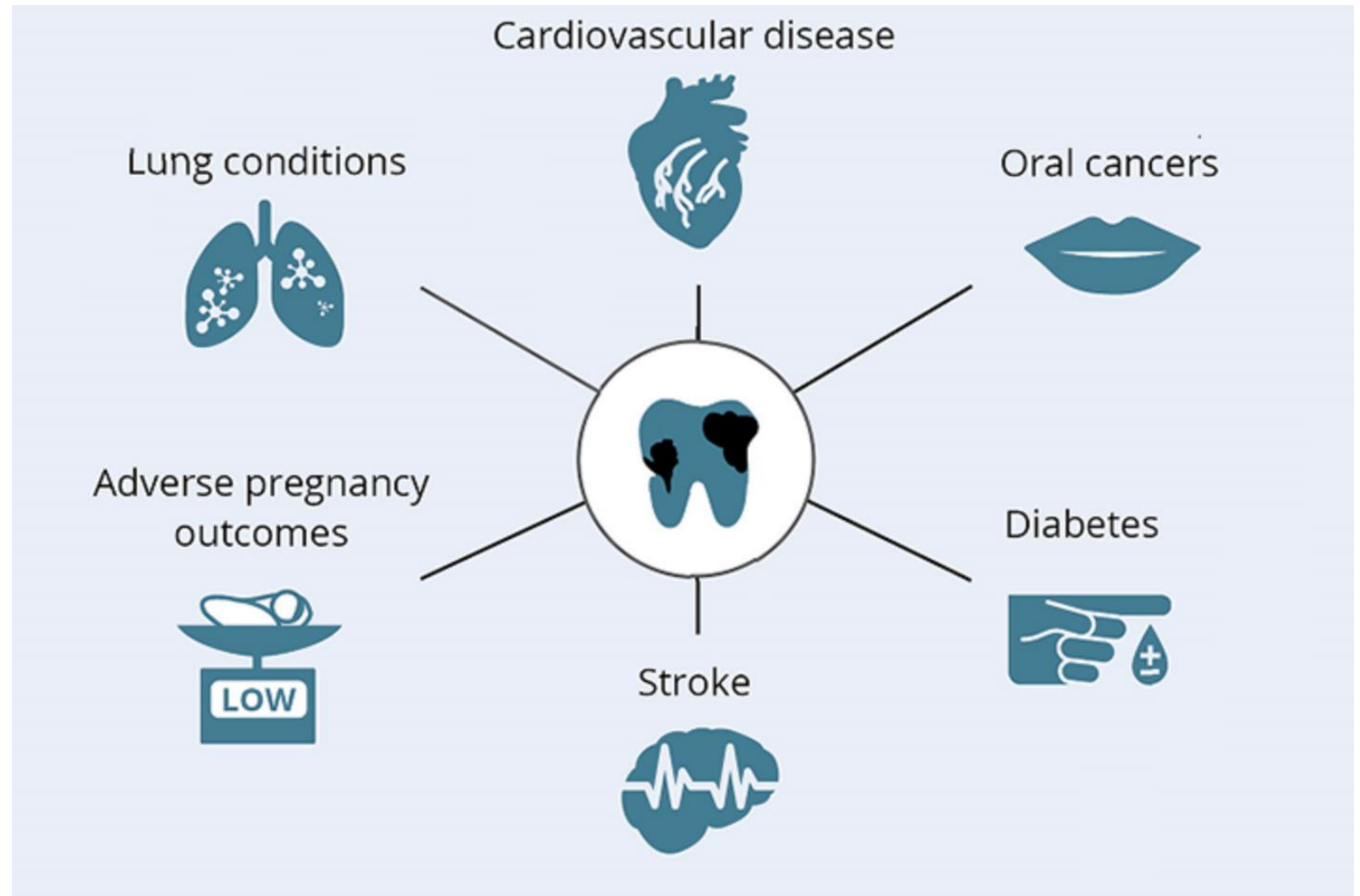


School of
Dental Medicine

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Oral and systemic disease are linked in complex ways

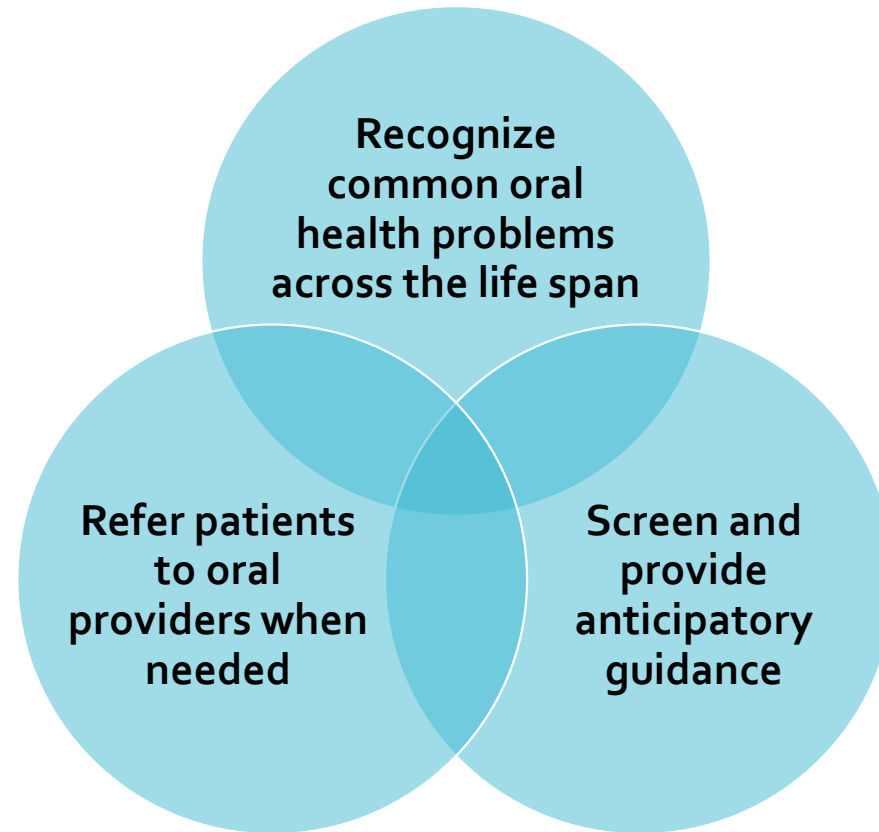
Background



Oral Health Curriculum

Didactic PA year 1

CURRICULUM GOALS



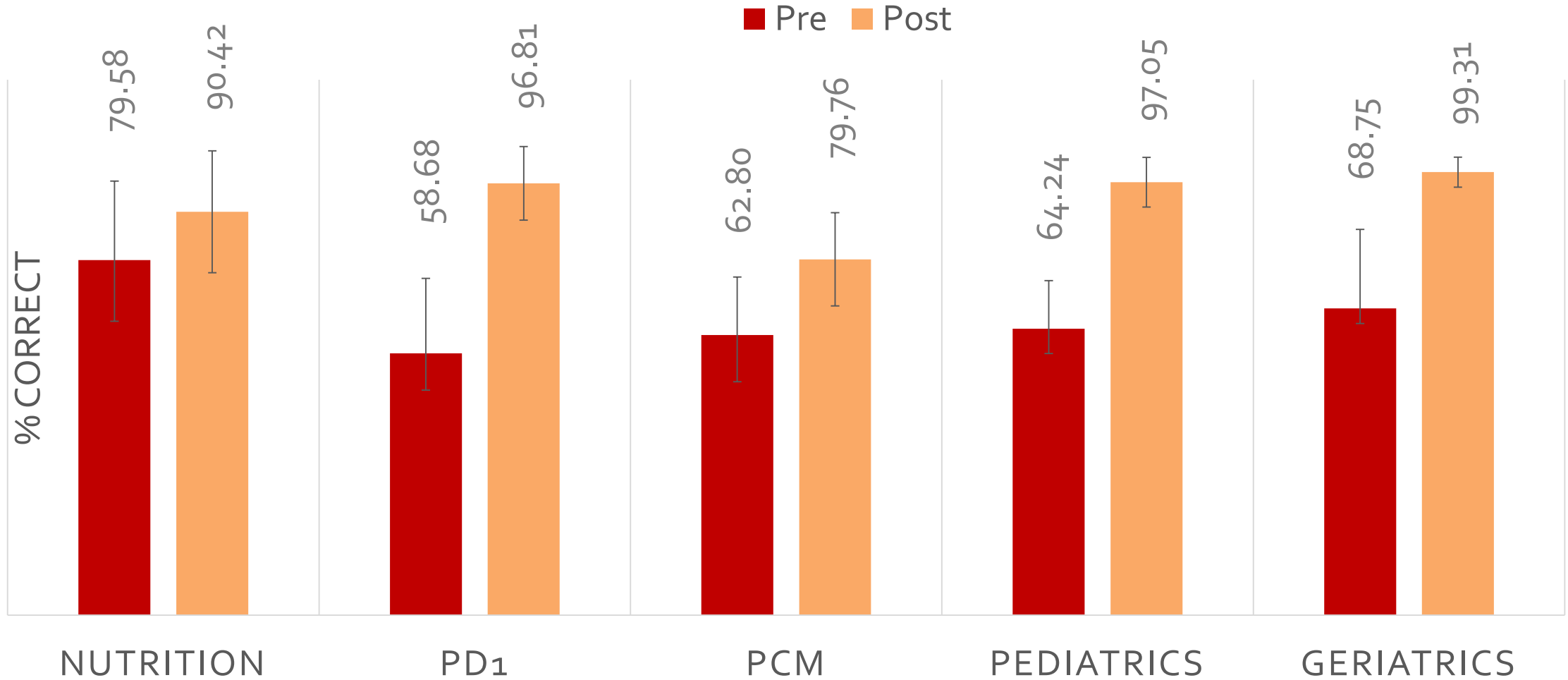
Lectures:

- Overview of dental medicine, interventions and dental exam
- Dental emergencies
- Oral manifestations of systemic diseases
- Geriatric oral health
- Diet and Caries risk
- Pediatric oral health and anticipatory guidance

Hands on skills:

- PA & Dental student collaboration and peer-to-peer teaching
- Fluoride varnish workshop

Initial Pilot Program Evaluation: Pre-test and Post-test Assessment

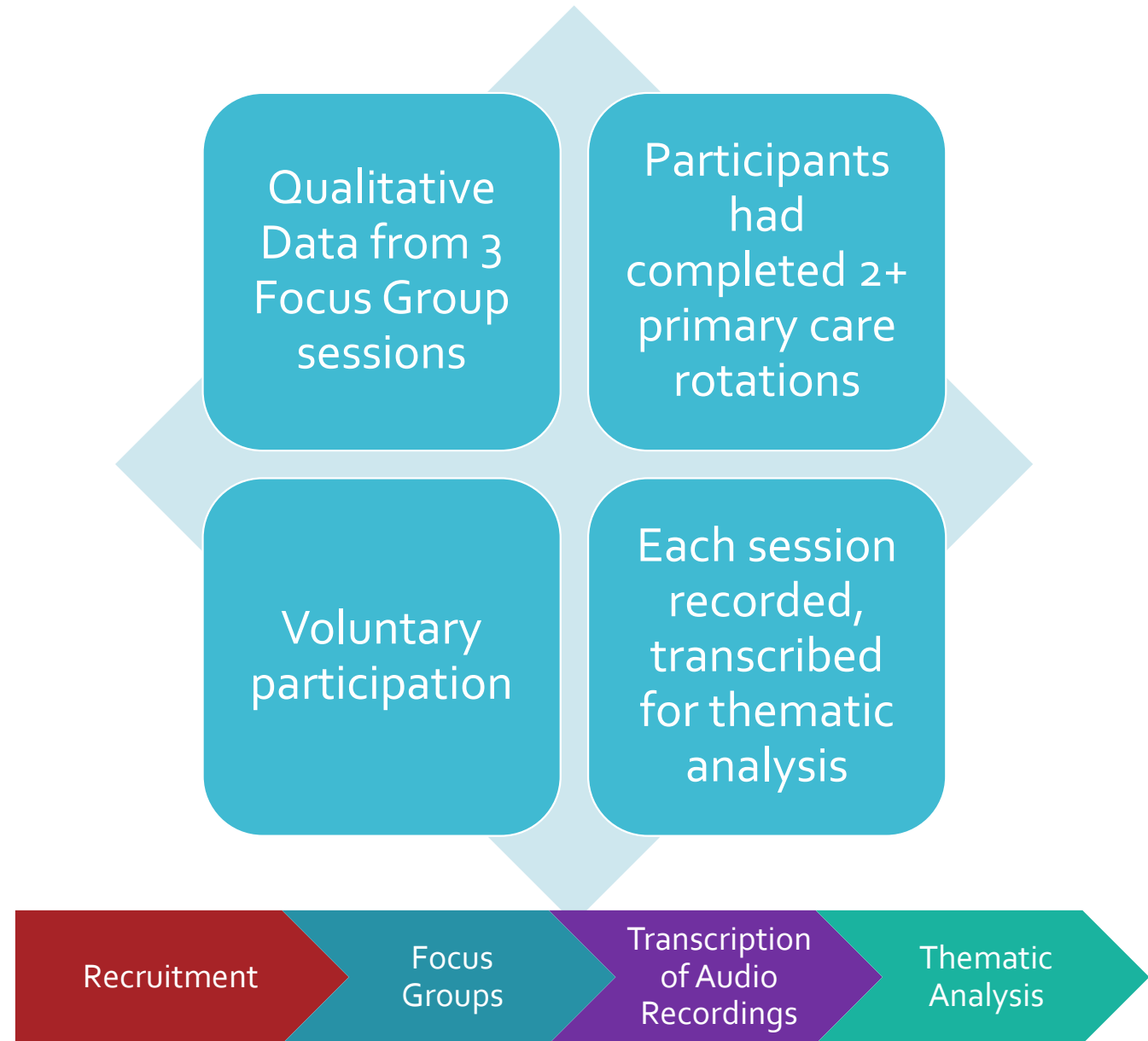


Pretest-posttest content area question responses. The horizontal axis indicates the PA courses in which relevant content areas were included. PD₁ = Physical Diagnosis I. PCM = Primary Care Medicine.

Follow up study:

To what extent did PA students integrate oral health knowledge during their clinical year primary care rotations?

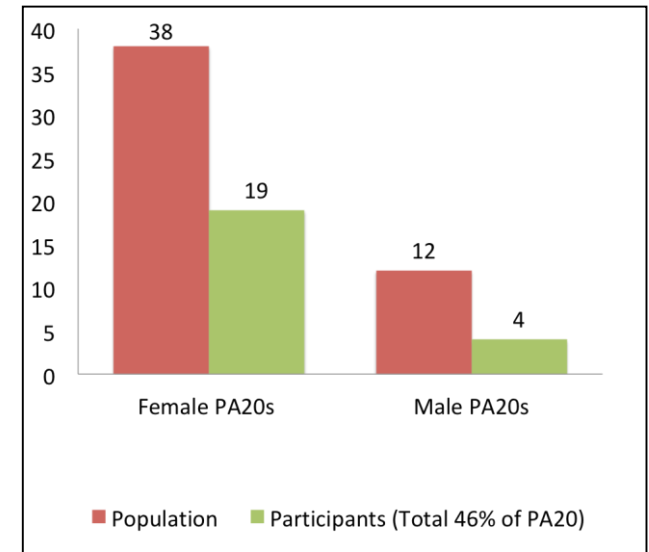
What were their perceptions of the relevance of the didactic curriculum to their clinical training?



PA Student Focus Group Questions

- Perceptions re: using oral health knowledge and screening skills in primary care clinical settings
- Confidence to perform and document an oral exam; applied oral risk assessment
- PA's role assessing and managing oral health and oral disease and barriers to oral care/referral in primary care settings
- Perceived value of the new oral health curriculum and constructive feedback for improvements

Cohort Demographics



Additional Cohort Information:

Average Age	25.5 (23-34)
Average hours of PCE	2600
Number of completed rotations at time of focus group	9

Thematic
analysis
revealed
two key
domains

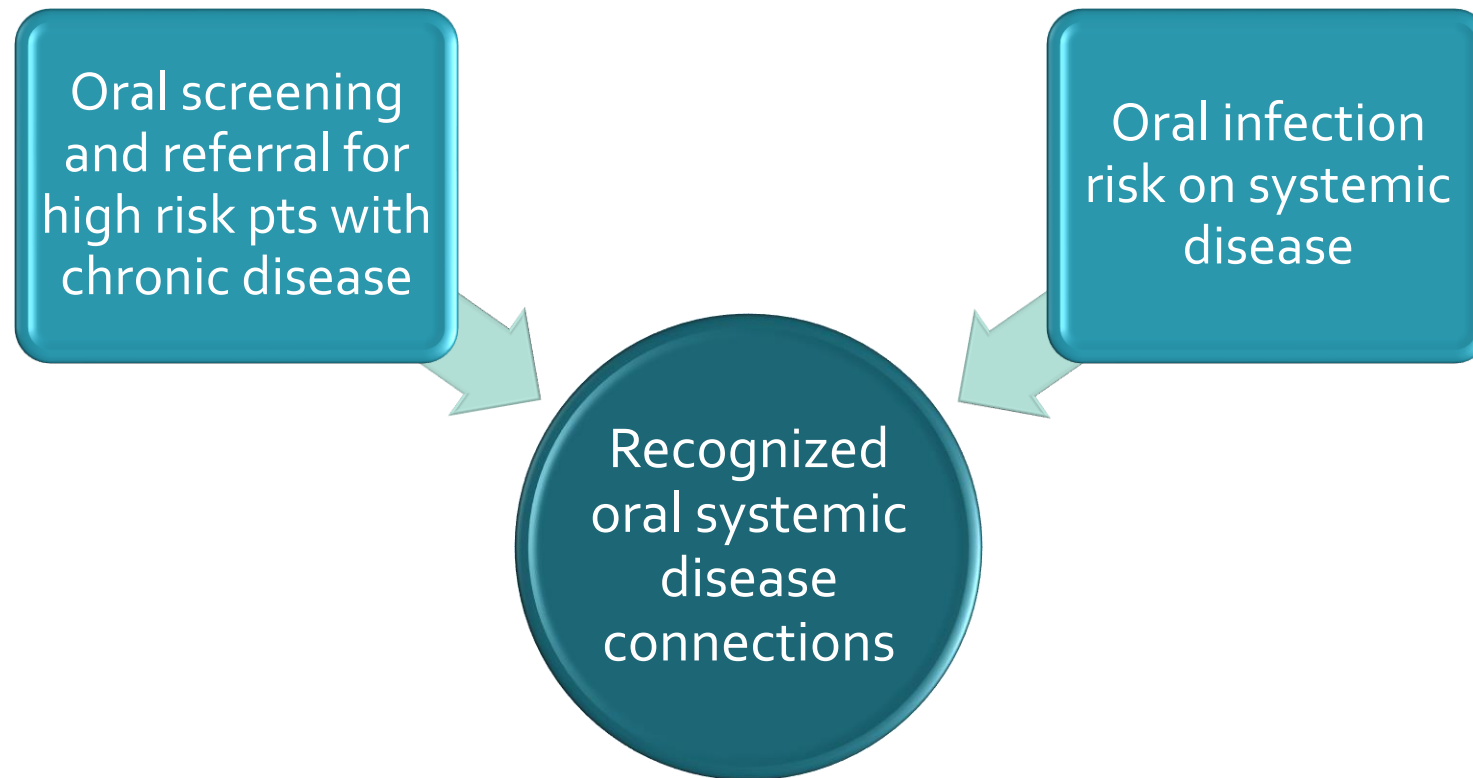
1. Students reported enhanced confidence in their oral health management skills

- Enhanced recognition of oral systemic disease connections
- Patient education and anticipatory guidance
- Oral assessment skills

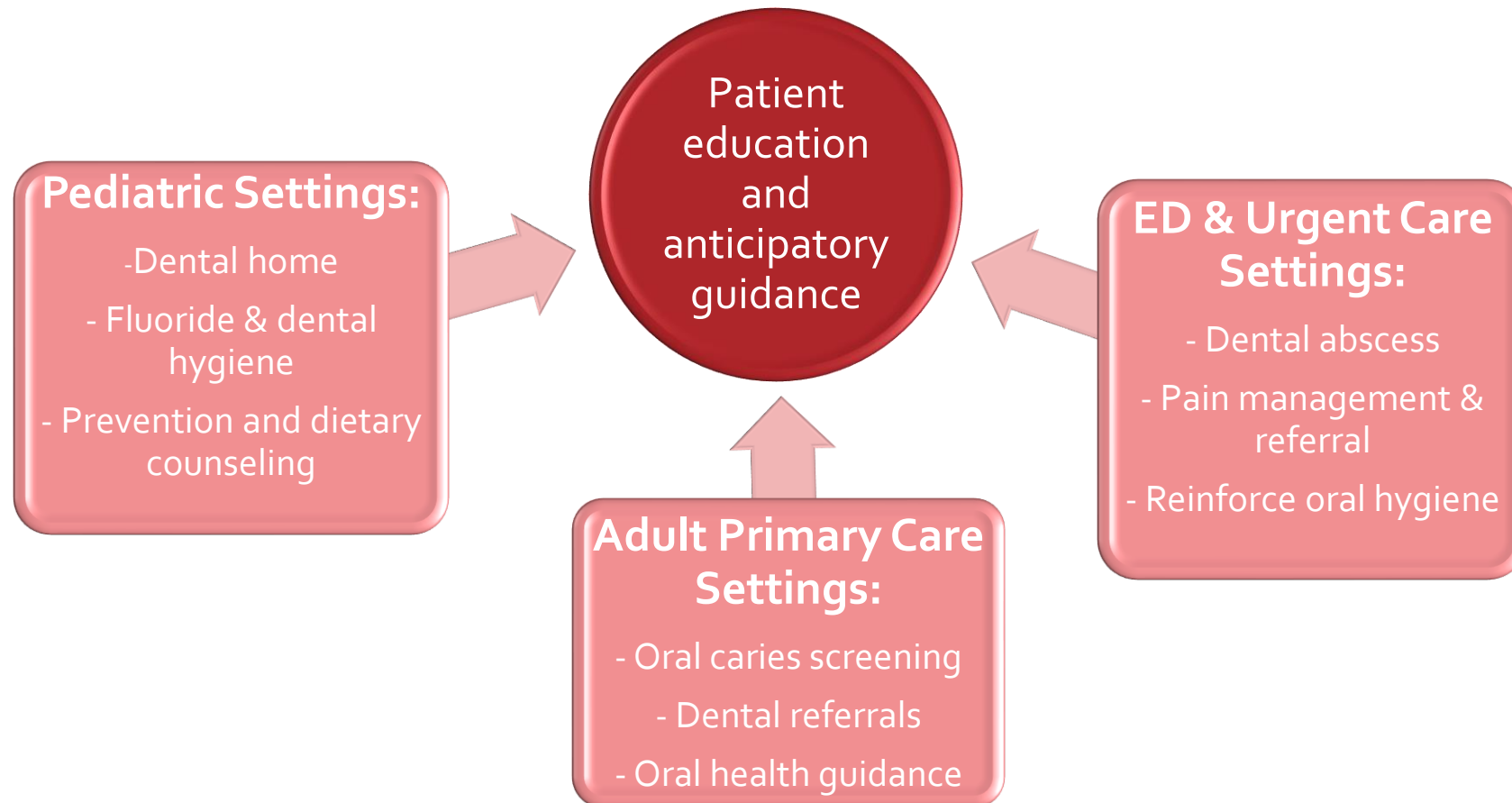
2. Students reported complex and conflicting issues re: the integration of oral health in primary care training settings

- Preceptor oral health knowledge and skills inconsistent
- Time constraints meant oral health often not prioritized
- Lack of oral health resources for uninsured/medicaid

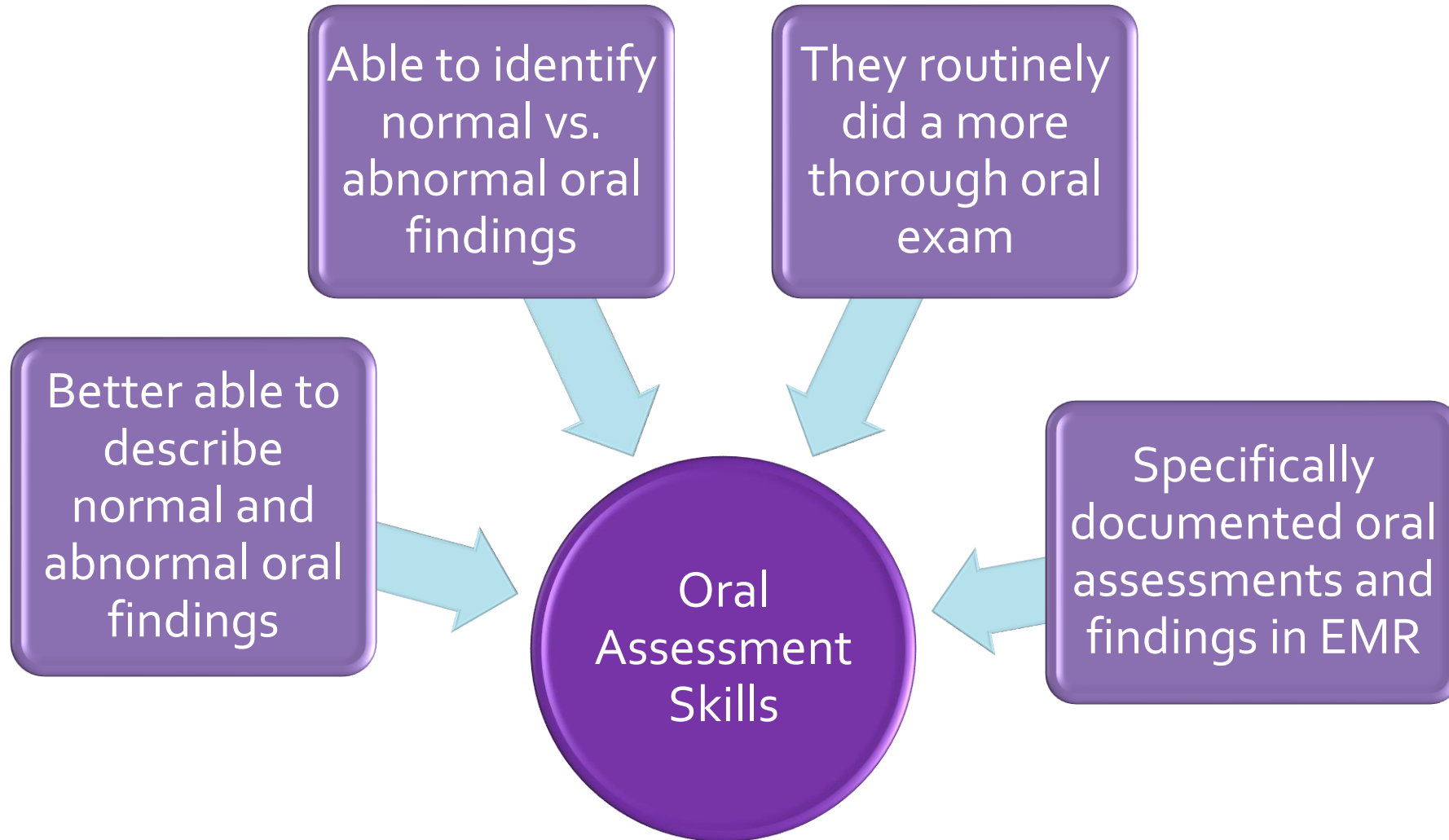
Students reported enhanced confidence managing oral health problems in primary and acute care medical settings



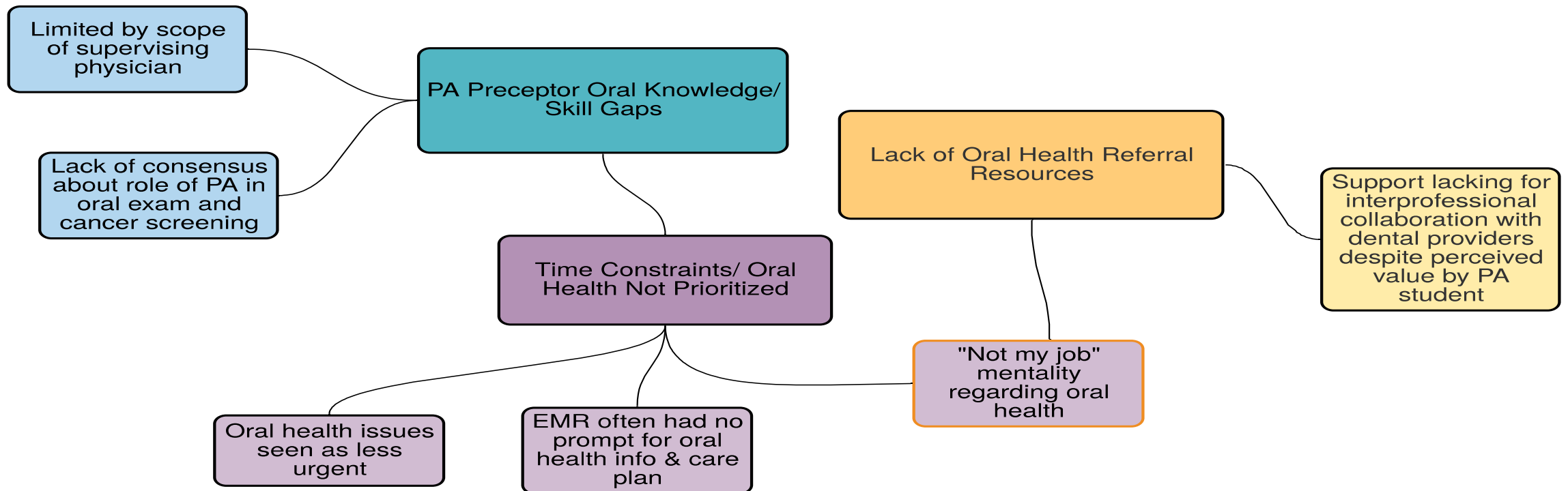
Students reported enhanced confidence providing patient education and anticipatory guidance in a variety of medical settings



Students reported enhanced confidence in their oral assessment skills



Students reported complex and conflicting issues re: the integration of oral health in primary care training settings



PA STUDENT QUOTES

Increased awareness and confidence to manage OH concerns

"...from the dental lectures, I definitely feel comfortable counseling patients ...about the importance of continued oral care"

"my pediatrics rotation was at a FQHC and we saw a large amount of immigrants come in...we did a fair bit of education as far as caries and fluoride treatments, especially in those cases and particularly, bottles in bed, things that lead to dental caries."

"we were with the dental students [first year in clinic] and got to see what they consider a full exam -- I used that every day in the ENT clinic. I think that was something they were kind of surprised about, that I had that ability to basically do the oral exam."

Deeper appreciation for financial and referral barriers to OH care for patients in community settings

OH knowledge valued more after opportunities to apply skills in clinic

Valued the opportunities for interprofessional collaboration with OH providers

Impact on Education

New Graduate Competencies

- Patient-centered practice knowledge Competency
 - Apply knowledge of pathophysiology
 - Discern among acute, emergent, and chronic disease states
 - Provide patient education aimed at disease prevention and health maintenance
- Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Leadership Competency
 - Describe knowledge of other health care professionals and their role in providing patient care
 - Develop relationships with physicians and other health care professionals and health care teams

ARC-PA Standards

- B2.08a, B2.08b: Curriculum
- B2.10a, B2.10c: Interprofessional team approach

For Questions or Additional Information

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