



ENHANCING COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENCE WITH CLINICAL SIMULATION: PAIRING NURSE AND NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENTS IN SIMULATION EXPERIENCES

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Background

- The complexity involved in role transition is a common and significant issue for students in the nursing profession.
 - Undergraduate nursing students (BSN level) are focused on developing their clinical decision making skills and aptitude to communicate with other health care professionals.
 - Graduate level Nurse Practitioner (NP) students continue to refine their decision making capability and are learning to transition to the role of team leader.
- Simulation experiences are utilized for both the BSN and NP students to facilitate active learning and foster a greater understanding of critical thinking and clinical reasoning.
- The ability to communicate with other health professionals about clinical issues is a skill that can be developed.
- Project will pair the undergraduate BSN and graduate NP students in a simulated patient care setting.
 - BSN students will need to be able to communicate concerns clearly to the advanced practice nurse.
 - NP student will need to be able to address the issues presented and develop a plan of care to maximize outcomes.

Actions, Methods, Intervention

- The University of Michigan School of Nursing is opening a new School including a state of the art Clinical Learning Center and Simulation Suite
 - Enables students to apply their skills prior to patient interaction in the clinical setting
- Utilizing simulation methods, BSN students will engage in scenarios that will assist with the development of interaction and communication skills used to identify patient issues and communicate them with the NP student.
- NP student will assess the patient in the simulation setting and develop a plan of care that may include interventions that require assistance by the BSN student.
- Anticipated items that will be addressed during the paired simulation include;
 - Care and medication order clarification
 - Clinical findings
 - Patient deterioration
 - Patient and family information requests
 - Patient-clinician conflict
 - Clinician-clinician conflict

Results

- Preliminary/planning stage
- Several scenarios have been developed and are currently in the process of designing learning objectives and outcomes for the BSN and NP student.



Lessons Learned

- Anticipated outcomes addressed for BSN and NP students
 - Increased confidence in the clinical setting with respect to physical assessment
 - Development of clinical reasoning skills appropriate to the practice level
 - Increased confidence to communicate with clinicians across disciplines and professions
 - Enhanced ability to advocate for patients
 - Confidence in dealing with challenging care and clinician conflict

Future Applications and Next Steps

- Anticipated implementation will be the winter 2016 term
- Items to be addressed
 - Development of the clinical scenarios
 - Specific evaluation criteria for each discipline
 - Design of the electronic medical record tool
 - Creation of the communication method

