Research Questions

- Do undergraduate baccalaureate nursing students enrolled in a clinical rotation who participate in post conference via structured clinical rounds demonstrate higher levels of clinical judgment than those who participate in unstructured classroom-based post conference discussions?

- Are gains in clinical judgment impacted by experiencing post conference via structured clinical rounds for 4 weeks versus 8 weeks?

Study Overview

**Background/Significance:** Clinical judgment is an imperative skill for nursing practice. However, a gap has been demonstrated between the acquired competence levels of newly graduated nurses and the required competence levels necessary for safe clinical practice.

**Methods:** This pilot study utilized a quasi-experimental design to determine if participation in post conference via structured clinical rounds utilizing the SBAR framework positively impacted clinical judgment in undergraduate nursing students compared with participation in classroom-based post conference discussions. A mixed methods approach was applied to evaluate outcomes based on analysis of pretest, posttest, and reflective journal findings. A designated case study was given to participants as a pretest and posttest which was scored utilizing the Lasater Clinical Judgment Rubric.

**Findings:** Quantitative data gleaned from a two-sample t-test did not demonstrate significant differences between groups. However, there was a positive trend noted as LCJR mean scores increased in clinical rounding groups (n=33; +0.76) as compared with a decrease in classroom-based discussion groups (n=13; -1.0). Qualitative data revealed themes of increased problem-solving ability and risk identification among students who participated in the clinical rounding strategy.

Intervention Groups

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<th>Intervention Groups and Timeframes</th>
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Qualitative Findings

- Findings support use of a SBAR framework to improve clinical judgment skills in nursing students.
- Peer collaboration and instructor modeling are maximized with the clinical rounding process.
- Clinical rounds can be tailored to fit curricular outcomes throughout an educational program.

Implications for Nursing

- Findings support use of a SBAR framework to improve clinical judgment skills in nursing students.
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References