

Enhancing nursing students` knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward quality improvement: Implementation of a hybrid activity

Authors

Mary Kathryn Gaffney*, Katie A. Chargualaf**, Suzanne Fowley***

Presenters

Mary Kathryn Gaffney*

Introduction: Nursing faculty focus on the development of students` knowledge, skills, and attitudes for providing safe, high quality care. To accomplish this, faculty typically utilize lectures (Lee, Jang, & Park, 2016) or online modules and flipped classrooms (Maxwell & Wright, 2016). Integration of other modalities such as tabletop activities and simulation also may be beneficial, particularly when these portray factors contributing to decreased quality and safety and encourage nurses` participation in quality improvement (QI) activities.

Objectives: Increase nursing students` knowledge and attitudes related to QI.

Methodology: A mixed method experimental feasibility study was conducted to evaluate the effect of a hybrid activity that enhanced an existing tabletop QI activity with a video recording of a simulated bedside change-of-shift report for a septic patient. The exchange portrayed behaviors such as poor central line management technique, incivility, nurse fatigue, and poor communication. The effect was evaluated using Dunagan`s (2017) original version of the Quality Improvement Nursing Attitude Scale (QINAS) pre/post-intervention and by a short essay post-intervention.

Results: Mean total scores between experimental and control groups showed improvement ($p = .011$); however, the QINAS did not capture the effect of exposure to the video. Compared to control group essays, the experimental group`s essays described greater insight into how interactions between colleagues, managerial directives, supply chains, and fiscal concerns directly and indirectly affect the quality and safety of care. Experimental group`s essays also revealed greater awareness of bedside nurses` roles in identifying quality and safety needs and the importance of contributing to interdisciplinary QI activities to ensure that change brings about the desired outcomes.

Conclusions: Tabletop activities alone improve students` attitudes toward QI, but students develop deeper understanding of influences on safe, high quality patient care and QI when exposed to the video portrayal. Nursing faculty searching for ways to improve students` knowledge, skills, and attitudes may find this hybrid activity beneficial.

Keyword 1: Quality Improvement

Keyword 2: Education Strategies

Keyword 3: Simulations

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* University of South Carolina Aiken, School of Nursing , Assistant Professor [maryg@usca.edu]
** University of South Carolina Aiken, School of Nursing , Assistant Professor
*** University of South Carolina Aiken, School of Nursing , Instructor