A Pre-Clinical Practicum Structured Learning Programme Evaluation: A Pre-/Post-Test Analysis

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Purpose: The purpose of this study is to implement a simulated learning exercises into the clinical practicum and to evaluate the program’s efficacy in assisting students transition. Specifically a structured survey will examine the impact of a this three day prehospital based clinical simulation program on the third year nursing students through reporting of anxiety and self-efficacy pre, during and post program participation.

Methods: An online survey based on the The General Self efficacy Scale-12 (GSES-12) seeks to measure three domains: initiative, effort and persistence and is designed to gauge to the undergraduate nursing student's confidence, competence, and anxiety associated with clinical placement will be conducted over three different time points, Prior to commencing clinical placement, after the first week of clinical placement and on completion of clinical placement.

Results: Descriptive statistics will be calculated for all questionnaire results. The data will be examined to determine whether the distribution of results is not significantly different to a normal distribution. Normally distributed data will be reported as a mean and standard deviation and non normally distributed data will be reported as a median with interquartile ranges. Statistical significance will be set at a = 0.05. A General Linear Model with repeated measures will be performed to determine whether participation in a three day clinical simulation exercise generates a statistically significant reduction in anxiety and improvement in self efficacy in the program participants. Preliminary results demonstrate some improvement post simulation program.

Conclusion: The implementation of the the survey is part of a larger project to evaluate a structured clinical program for third year nursing students prior to, during and post their clinical placement in an acute hospital settings. It is hoped that this three day pre hospital based clinical simulation program can be further refined to assist with a transition period. Preliminary results demonstrate some improvement post simulation program however final results will determine its importance in clinical prespartion.

Title:
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Abstract Summary:
A core component to the undergraduate nursing curriculum is clinical practicum. This can be a stressful time for students involved. As a means of transition to clinical practice, a simulation program was implemented and anxiety and self-efficacy pre, during and post program participation will be recorded.

References:

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Author Summary: She has published in peer reviewed journals and books as well as given both national and international presentations which focused on evaluating nursing practice, roles and interventions to advance their practice and promote better patient outcomes.

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Author Summary: Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Montclair State University NJ. The Specifically, her program of research addresses youth exposure to community and gang violence and the impact exposure to violence has on their health. Since completion of her PhD (2008), she has also expanded her research trajectory to exploring how violence affects vulnerable youths' health related quality of life.

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