Returning Nursing Students Safely to the Nursing Learning Center Lab

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Purpose: The purpose of this Proses Improvement Project was to provide a safe environment to bring the students back into the Nursing Learning Center and to provide an opportunity to refine the skills they have learned throughout the nursing program. After the closure of the campus in Mid-March 2020, the senior nursing students were not able to return to campus to practice their skills as was previous provided to the senior nursing students prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the interim when campus was closed, the senior students were able to participate in a live online 3-hour class taught by four nursing faculty to virtually review several skills needed by new nurses. Students provided feedback that the virtual opportunity was helpful but they continued to feel anxious related to not having the hands on opportunities to actually practice the skills in the Nursing Learning Center.

Methods: Process Improvement Project -Over the summer the Nursing Department provided a faculty member to the University COVID-19 committee to represent our needs and ensure the safety of the students during the COVID-19 Pandemic. A COVID-19 Pandemic Workforce Member Entry Screening Standard Operating Procedure and a Nursing Learning Center Code of Conduct were developed and implemented by the University to allow the students to return to the lab under strict conditions. After returning to the lab, evaluate the safety of the students and to explore the students satisfaction with the skills review virtually and under the strict requirements implemented in order to return to the lab.

Results: After following the recommendations of the COVID-19 Pandemic Workforce Member Entry Screening Standard Operating Procedure and a Nursing Learning Center Code of Conduct the students were able to return to the Nursing Learning Center and safely practice their skills. Students were asked to provide feedback on their experiences in both the online virtual skills review and the return to the lab with the restrictions and requirements outlined in the new protocols. It was found that the students preferred being in thee lab, stated they felt safe, and no COVID -19 cases were reported after participating in the skill practice sessions in the Nursing Learning Center. The students expressed feeling an increase in their confidence in completing their skills in the clinical areas after having the hands-on time in the nursing lab. Additionally, the students expressed an increase in satisfaction regarding their final trimester after being provided the safe experience to practice their skills in the Nursing Learning Center.

Conclusion: The students were able to remain safe after returning to the lab and the restrictions and preventive measures continue to be strictly followed.

Title:

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Keywords:

COVID-19, Nursing Learning Center Skills and Safely returning to campus

Abstract Summary:

The purpose of the project was to evaluate the possibility and then devise a safe plan to return the students to the Nursing Learning Center Safely in Fall 2020.

Late Breaking Reason:

This is a late breaking submission as this project is related to the use of virtual learning in the summer to returning the students to the Nursing Learning Center Lab this Fall. The project started last March and continues through the December 2020.

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