

Innovative Teaching Strategies for the Community Clinical Student :Engaging Students Where They Live



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Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate ways the community clinical experience engages nursing students in the community where they live. With shorter length of stays in the acute care setting, the community health care nurse has assumed the responsibility of caring for more patients on an outpatient basis.

Objectives: After viewing this poster :

- 1.The learners will be able to identify three or more community partners in that could provide nursing students with unique clinical experiences.
- 2.The learner will be able to incorporate the ways to implement and replicate this clinical experience for their students.

Abstract

Community health nursing provides care not only to the individual patients, but to the families and the communities in which they live. The BSN nursing students are immersed into the community experience, allowing an opportunity to become well-rounded and explore a variety of nursing challenges. With the changing health care system, and the advancing age of the population, nurses are needed more in the home and in the community setting. Nurses in the community setting serve as educators, advocates for the patients, counselors, and patient liaisons/case managers, as well as provide direct patient care.

Students have commented that these clinical opportunities have opened their eyes to new avenues which nursing has to offer that were nonexistent prior to this clinical experience

and have realized that community nursing plays a vital role in caring for the under privileged

and under-served populations as well as the geriatric population.



Implications for Nursing Educational Practice

This presentation will give specific examples of community health nursing facilities utilized to provide an opportunity for senior nursing students to be exposed to a variety of nursing opportunities within the community. The students were able to utilize critical thinking skills, advocate for individual patients and families, and provide direct patient care.

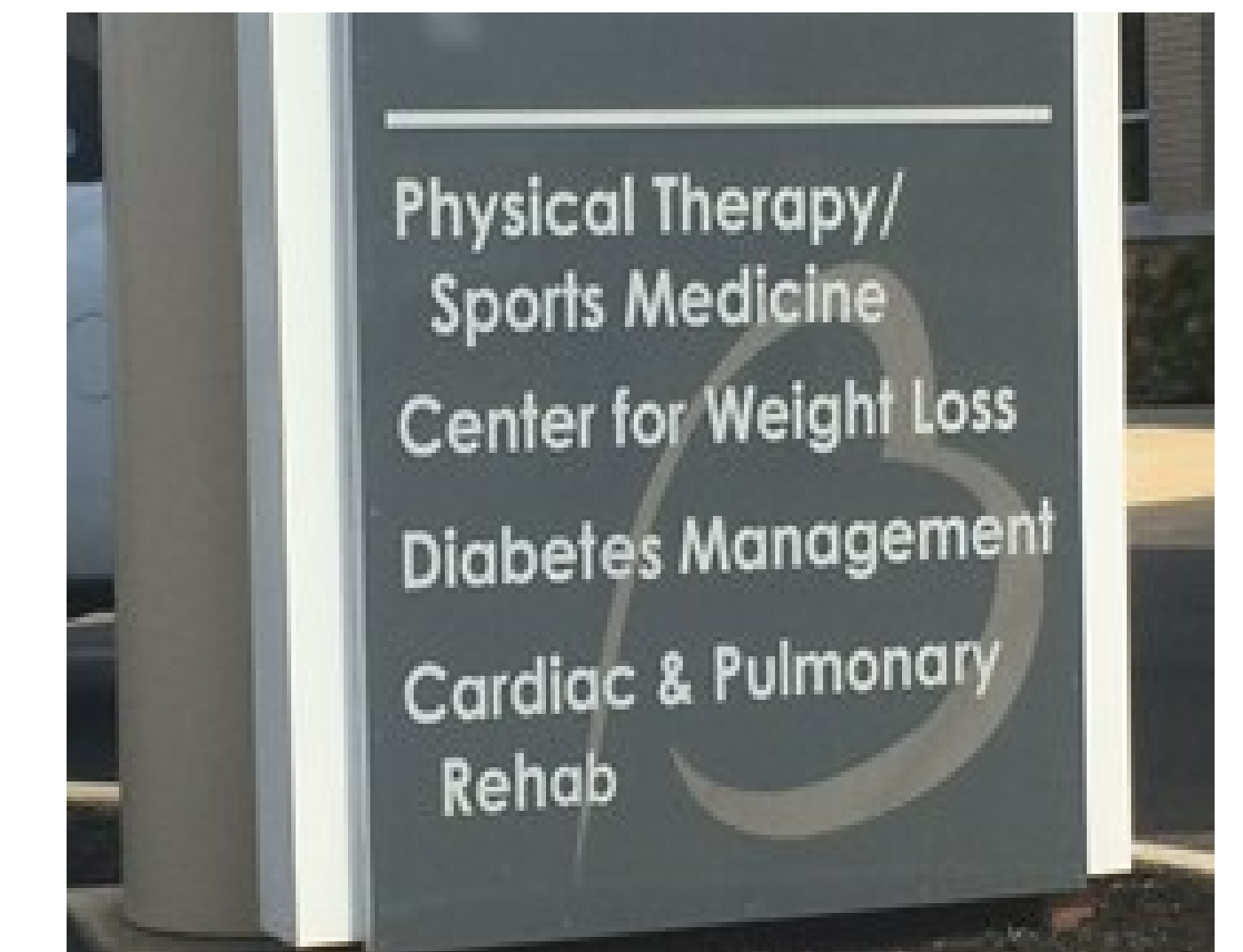
Student comments:

“Overall, I had the best clinical experience at the wound care center and feel that I really learned a lot that will help me in my future practice.”

“Prior to starting this rotation, I thought the dialysis nurse was really just a machine operator. I had the perception that they sat by and made sure the equipment was functioning properly. I honestly felt like it was a waste of good nursing skills to only pay attention to a screen and not really the patient all day (I was proven wrong)”.

“These nurses form close relationships with their patients. I believe it is this type of referent power that promotes the overall health and wellness of the patients. The patients respect and love their nurses and want to be healthy so that they can be happy.”

“I think it is also safe to say that these nurses are huge patient advocates. Sure, all nurses are supposed to be patient advocates, but I have never noticed people putting the patients’ best interests first the way community health nurses do”.



Conclusions

This ongoing clinical practicum continues to grow and incorporate a variety of community health outpatient programs and centers. Nursing students are being exposed to programs that impact the communities and provide a life line for the population. This practicum has opened the student’s eyes to see beyond the acute care hospital experience in an effort to increase knowledge about the communities in which they will eventually work as nurses.

References

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Disclosures

Bilinda Norman has nothing to disclose about this project.