

Background

- Projection for the RN workforce is that by 2022 there will be a need for 1.05 million RN's to replace retired nurses or those who've left the profession.
- Barriers to educating nurses
 - Limited access to clinical sites
 - Placement opportunities at discretion of health care setting instead of students learning needs
 - Lack of Nursing Faculty
- Lack of practice ready nurses



Traditional clinical group one instructor and eight students

Question

What models of student clinical placements have been found to increase students learning and competency of hands on patient care and at the same time provide the practice partner with practice ready nursing graduates?

Purpose

- Develop a collaboration between academic and practice leaders
- Develop and implement an innovative method for teaching clinical to senior level nursing students
- Provide the nursing workforce with practice ready nurses

Data Collection

Outcome measures established were:

1. Pre and post implementation of the DEU students will be surveyed to evaluate their perception of their readiness to practice .
2. Student's pre and post participation in DEU will be surveyed to assess the student's self-efficacy related to clinical skills.
- 3 Student's critical thinking will be measured post implementation.
4. Dedicated Educator's (DE) knowledge regarding student's readiness to practice will be surveyed both pre and post participation in an educational intervention.
5. DE perception/attitudes of the student's readiness for practice will be collected.
6. DE satisfaction with the DEU experience including support by faculty, mentorship program and overall experience.

Methods

- Evaluation done of various DEU models across the country.
- Establishment of partnership between academia and practice.
 - The partnership established was between a regional medical center (RMC) and a private religious liberal arts university (CUW).
- A taskforce led by the author was formed that included members from both the practice and academic organizations.
- Developed a DEU model similar to that of the Portland DEU model to be utilized between academia and a regional medical center in the Southeastern WI.
- A thorough process and framework was developed for the implementation of the DEU to occur January 2015 – May 2015.
- The students placed on the DEU were surveyed pre & post clinical experience.
- Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 focus group questioning with the DEU students was also implemented in order to obtain qualitative data.

Results

The DEU is located on a 24 bed inpatient unit. The small unit size has placed on the unit each semester. To date eight senior level students have completed a one semester Medical/Surgical clinical experience on the DEU. Due to the small *n* quantitative data collection is ongoing.

Focus group findings:

- "I felt I became part of the "team" on the DEU and was able to talk to the CNA's and ask any of the other nurses on the unit for help. Some of the nursing assistants would even come to me and ask for help."
- "After completing this experience I feel more comfortable & confident communicating with other health professionals."

Comfort with nursing skills, decision making skills, & critical thinking skills:

- "I feel a lot more confident."
- "My decision making skills have definitely grown just because I was working with a nurse on the unit."
- "I felt I was challenged more to critically think when status was changing and we had to go through the process while still being able to give an explanation to the patient as to why the change was happening and why they were experiencing what they were."

Do you feel practice ready:

- "I feel a lot more ready & my confidence is a lot better."
- "I wouldn't be feeling more confident & the way I do if I didn't have the experience on the DEU."

Conclusions

- The DEU at the RMC was the first of its kind in the state of WI
- The DEU represents not only an innovative way to teach nursing students in the clinical setting it is also a great way for students to achieve their individual learning needs.
- The establishment of the practice partnership itself between CUW and the RMC has already proven to be beneficial for both partners.
- The author has IRB approval to collect quantitative & qualitative data till May 2017 and will continue to do so as the qualitative evidence is already showing positive outcomes for students.



References

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