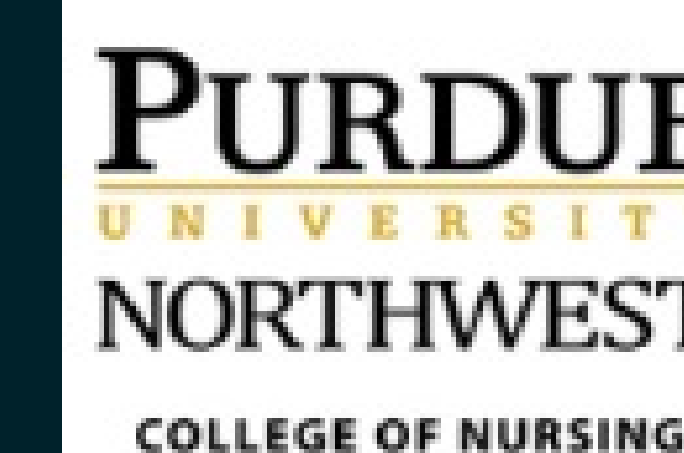


Aligning Baccalaureate Clinical Education with the Changing Character of Healthcare

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Abstract

The face of nursing today has changed dramatically. There are nursing positions that were non-existent not that long ago. There are nurse navigators, transition nurses, documentation and reimbursement specialists, nurse informaticists, nurse liaisons, patient advocates, and many others. I realized these positions were developed in answer to a need, and I felt a responsibility to understand that need and to convey the information to my students.

Introduction

- Member of a regional safety coalition, with representatives from all the hospitals in the area.
- Member of an area care coordination coalition, which focuses on transitions in care and includes representatives from skilled care, rehab, pharmacies, medical supply companies, and numerous community resources.
- Information is pertinent and timely, and should be incorporated into the curriculum. It is especially appropriate in the final semester of an undergraduate program.
- Can be adjusted to the times and to on-going changes in the healthcare environment.

Course Specifics

- Each day, at post-conference, we discuss at least one quality issue that arose that day.
- We meet with the case manager on the unit as well as someone from quality improvement.
- We discuss patient disposition and how the plan was determined.
- We meet with a representative from administration to see how needs for new positions were determined.



Course Objectives

- Analyze how the various aspects of quality initiatives work together for patient safety.
- Apply a problem solving framework to improve some aspect of patient care.
- Develop a strategy that could broaden the awareness of bedside nurses of the value of other nursing positions in the institution.
- Discuss how transitions in care could be facilitated on the nursing unit.

Conclusions

- Students have responded positively to this addition to the curriculum.
- Students have been able to discuss some of these issues with the staff nurses.
- Students have a better understanding of some of the intricacies of health care and reimbursement issues.
- Students appreciate that most of the global changes in health care have led to improvements in patient care and safety at the bedside as well.

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