Emergency on Campus: Attitudes of Interprofessional Healthcare Students in a Simulated Patient Care Experience

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Abstract
The simulation was designed to create an opportunity for students to learn interprofessionally. Students from nursing (A-BSN), occupational therapy (OT), and athletic training (AT) participated in treating a student athlete who experienced a spinal cord injury. The research was conducted to explore changes in students' attitudes and perceptions of interprofessional collaboration through quantitative and qualitative data.

Methods

Pre-Test
- Jefferson Scale of Attitudes Towards Interprofessional Collaboration (JSATIC)
- 77 Students (A-BSN, AT, OT)

Simulation
- JSATIC (32 students completed pre- and post-test)
- BSN=10; AT=18; OT=4

Post-Test
- Open to all students
- Data not collected for research study

Debriefing
- 2 focus groups (n=13)
- Guided questions were adapted from the Interprofessional Attitudes Scale
- Thematic analysis of transcribed data

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Simulation</th>
<th>Post-Simulation</th>
<th>p</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall JSATIC Scale</td>
<td>121.5 (28.3)</td>
<td>126.0 (35.5)</td>
<td>.074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability subscale</td>
<td>46.5 (14.5)</td>
<td>46.5 (26.5)</td>
<td>.946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Relationship subscale</td>
<td>79.5 (10.8)</td>
<td>82.0 (6.0)</td>
<td>.003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualitative Themes

- Respect
- Knowledge

Discussion
The quantitative findings demonstrated a significant increase in working relationship scores after the simulation (p=.003). There was not a significant change in JSATIC scores (p=.074) or accountability scores (p=.946). The Cohen’s effect size was calculated for the change from pre-simulation and post-simulation, showing a large effect for the working relationship subscale (d=.79). The qualitative themes reflected the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Core Competencies of values/ethics, interprofessional communication, roles/responsibilities, and teams/teamwork (IPEC, 2016).

Recommendations
A future recommendation for research would be long-term follow-up with participants to study the impact on their professional careers. Additional healthcare disciplines could be added to the simulation to enhance the interprofessional experience.

References