Clinical Reasoning: OPTimizing Teaching and Learning in Nursing Education
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INTRODUCTION

Purpose
Describe the value of using the OPT Model of Clinical Reasoning to develop clinical reasoning skills among pre-licensure nursing students in various teaching/learning situations.

Background
• The OPT facilitates Clinical Reasoning
• Students develop critical, creative systems, and complexity thinking skills.
• The OPT model helps students organize thinking & reasoning about patient scenarios.
• The OPT promotes habitual thinking which students are able to recall with subsequent similar clinical scenarios.

OPT Model in CLASSROOM
• Case study
• Group work
• Standardized patients in the classroom
• Videos of clinical scenarios
• ACES audio recordings of patient scenarios (NLN)
• Modeling practice situations in the classroom

OPT Model in CLINICAL
• Clinical post conference discussions using the OPT Model:
  - Case studies relevant to clinical setting
  - Presentation of actual patient scenarios
  - Identification of thinking strategies used during care planning
  - Reinforcement of patient-centered care and EBP for decision making
• Completion of OPT Model based on actual patient care experiences
• Evaluation of student assignments with timely feedback using a rubric
• Monitoring student progress with clinical reasoning skills with the OPT Model

OPT Model in SIMULATION
• Simulated hospital and team nursing
• All levels of simulation fidelity as parts of patient stories are presented in report and from medical records.
• Focus on a given Keystone issue and proceed through the OPT Model framework
• During debriefing following a simulation.

DISCUSSION

• Clinical Reasoning activates many types of thinking.
• Educators must support development of this thinking through the use of different thinking strategies such as hypothesizing and juxtaposing, which are inherent in the OPT model.
• The OPT model has been used throughout the prelicensure curriculum at one University, consistently and effectively, in all learning settings for over 15 years.