Student nurses’ perception of self-efficacy, readiness, and perceived clinical judgment through the use of multi-patient simulation: A pilot study

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Method

Multi-Patient Simulation (MPS)
- Upon graduation, new graduate nurses are not prepared to care for multiple patients in the acute care environment.

Purpose/Aim
- Increase student awareness to safely and effectively prioritize care for multiple patients.
- Delegate and implement care in the clinical setting for multiple patients.
- Critically review multi-patient simulation as an effective teaching technique in nursing education.

Instruments
- 37-item Likert scale Self-Efficacy in Clinical Performance (SECP) survey. Questions are divided into categories of the nursing process.
- Modified simulation scenarios from the National League of Nursing (NLN).
- Semi-structured interview guide

Recruitment and Participants
- Study took place at a University with a BSN program.
- Email was sent to 4th semester students via listserv to introduce the study and ask for participation.
- IRB review was completed and deemed exempt at both institutions.
- Sample size N=9

Results
- Open-ended question: Three students stated that simulation experience was useful and helped them prioritize care for multiple patients and provided an accurate picture of their skill set.
- Eight students stated that this experience helped them with their clinical judgment.
- All nine students stated that MPS should be placed in the nursing school curriculum.
- In eight of the 37-item pre/posttest survey, the mean scores indicated that there were areas where students experienced a slightly higher level of confidence in their ability to provide care for multiple patients after simulation.
- Significant decrease in mean scores on five questions reflect that after the simulation, student participants may have been less confident in their ability to provide care in the different areas of the nursing process.

Qualitative Themes:
- Confidence in decision-making ability
- Confidence to call upon others for assistance
- Application of knowledge to novel situations
- Understanding the “big picture”

Conclusions/Further Study
- Multi-patient simulation offers a valuable venue for validating students’ current knowledge and skill set, while giving them the opportunity to assess their knowledge and skill deficits.
- Greater number of students over a longer period of time, implemented earlier in nursing education.
- Future multiple-patient simulations that do not involve a decompensating patient may serve to reduce the anxiety commonly associated with simulation.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Kupiri Ackerman-Barger PhD, RN
Assistant Adjunct Professor and Assistant Director of the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

Dr. Margaret Hodget MSN, RN, Ed.D
Associate Adjunct Professor; Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

Dr. Debra Brady DNP, RN, CNS
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