Partnership Between University Clinical Skills/Simulation Center and Nursing Staff Development-New Products

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ABSTRACT
Creating a bridge between the academic and clinical community can produce innumerable benefits for both the university and the hospital. The overall premise is that orientation of the new employee begins on the first day of nursing school. Incorporating evidence based practice and nursing department policy and procedures as benchmarks anchors the nursing curriculum. Having nursing students learn and practice new skills in the simulation center with the identical supplies and equipment utilized by the hospital personnel is an essential component for their eventual assimilation in the hospital clinical units. Creating a partnership between the hospital nursing staff development department’s product review subcommittee and the University Clinical Skills and Simulation Center has brought to the forefront the mutual benefits of collaboration.

There is growing evidence in the nursing literature about the effectiveness of clinical simulation as a powerful teaching/learning strategy. This wealth of research attributes simulation’s effectiveness to its design that creates an environment where “students become active learners, abandoning memorization for accessing knowledge, and thinking and applying learning in context rather than providing answers to fact-based tests” (Jeffries, 2007). A simulation suite provides a “safe, supportive environment that allows students to learn a variety of complex skills in a stress-free environment” (Ghiglieri, Ruiz, & Vasudevan, 2007). Creating this environment requires meticulous planning to details. The learner must have a high degree of believability that the clinical setting is authentic. The clinical simulation suite should be a mirror image of a similar clinical room in the hospital, with all the equipment and products identical to one another. A learner in this simulated patient care scenario can easily transfer lessons learned to the real life patient in the hospital setting. The benefits of simulation as a teaching strategy will have direct improvement on patient safety, increased knowledge and increased compliance with nursing policy and procedures, increased staff and patient satisfaction and increased student/future employee clinical confidence.

Academic – Service Partnership
Jefferson School of Nursing (JSN) and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) collaborated to incorporate evidence based practice and hospital policies and procedures as benchmarks anchoring the nursing curriculum to the reality of employment.

Goals of the Partnership
- Prepare students for assimilation into hospital clinical units
- Develop student familiarity with equipment and supplies
- Promote standardization of products, across the hospital and university settings

Projected Outcomes
- Increase in patient safety & quality of care secondary to students using same supplies & equipment
- Increase confidence & competency in student clinical experience
- Decrease cost in orientation as student transitions from student to new employee
- Increase in employee and patient satisfaction
- Decrease supply usage: since familiarity with equipment should decrease actual product use on clinical units (no longer need to ‘practice’ with actual supplies prior to procedures)

Methodology
- Partnership of key employees between hospital & university
- Creation of ad hoc position on Hospital’s Product Evaluation & Implementation Subcommittee for a university staff member
- Standardized Supply Chain operations

Recent Accomplishments
- Creation of a Clinical Laboratory equipment package
- Staffing of an in house Clinical Skills Center
- New Student Orientation

Outcomes in quality of care
- Outcomes in patient safety
- Transferability of skills to clinical arena
- Outcomes in quality of care

Next Steps – Future
- Continue to monitor & evaluate
- Build relationships with vendors to include Sim Lab for products/supplies
- Increase liaison relationships with nurse leaders in hospital & university

Teaching Critical Thinking
- Critical care is fast paced and requires a high level of attention to details, quick assessment skills, and critical thinking.
- These skills are difficult to teach and are best learned though experience and practice.
- Simulation allows the opportunity to learn and practice critical care skills in a controlled and safe environment.

Advantages of Simulation Use
- Simulation offers opportunities to practice critical events in a safe and controlled environment
- Reflective learning by facilitated debriefing of scenarios and video feedback.
- Team training. Scenario themes can focus on understanding team collaboration and communication.

Current Evaluation of Program
- Student evaluations require evaluation of sim lab:
  - “The Clinical Laboratory equipment was adequate to support learning”
- Student types taking evaluation:
  - 2009: ASN Second Year Students
  - 2010: BSN Traditional 3rd Year Students
  - 2011: RN-BSN 3rd Year Students

Student Evaluations

![Student Evaluations Graph]

References