The Use of Standardized Patient Simulation for Interprofessional Teaching of Palliative Care Communication Skills

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• Concurrent Session #1 on Saturday, October 11th from 9:45 AM-11:15 AM in Hamilton 505.
Jefferson School of Nursing - Seed Money

• Acknowledge:
• School of Nursing-Palliative Care Cases/Scenarios

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• Children who receive palliative care services are affected by illnesses that are different in nature and number from those that typically affect adult recipients.

• Interdisciplinary/Interprofessional teams are the norm:
  • Special knowledge of pediatric developmental, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions round out the comprehensive palliative care of pediatric patients.
  • Even symptom management requires unique assessment tools.

• [http://www2.aap.org/sections/palliative/](http://www2.aap.org/sections/palliative/)
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- Little documented literature on teaching inter-professional teams:
  - Nursing/medical/radiology/OT/PT students or providers as members of the same interprofessional team in the area of palliative care.

- Advances in pediatric care, increasing survival of children with chronic medical illness and terminal illnesses:
  - Urgency for training in palliative care,
  - Ideally, providers-specific training in the communication skills provide optimal care to children/families with chronic and/or terminal illness.

Interprofessional education

• Recognized as critical for improved functioning of teams of health professionals.

• Nursing education, the concepts of interprofessional teamwork/collaboration are widely recognized and integrated into nursing curriculum nationwide through adoption of:
  • “Essentials” of nursing education documents (AACN, 2008) and the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) report.

Interprofessional education

- Medical education through the adoption of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies of collaboration within health care teams to enhance patient safety and care quality.

Need:

- Increased need, formal palliative care training in pediatric settings is lacking;
- Interprofessional teams may find themselves largely unprepared in highly stressful maternal child palliative care clinical situations.
- Well-documented need for sophisticated and practical tools to teach medical students and residents about pediatric palliative care.

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- **Primary hypothesis:**
  - Interprofessional simulation training within palliative care will *increase* the novice or expert clinician’s ability to communicate and to collaborate in maternal/child palliative situations.
  - Interprofessional simulation training within palliative care will *enhance* the novice or expert clinician’s sense of empathy.
  - Interprofessional simulation training within palliative care will *increase* the novice or expert clinician’s perceived ability to assist families to cope in maternal/child palliative situations.
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**Specific Aims:**

- To describe the experience, benefits, and challenges of a simulated, family communication in palliative care teaching strategy.
- To determine the effectiveness of an interprofessional simulated family communication in palliative care teaching strategy to:
  - 1. Increase students’ perceived emotional comfort and ability for emotional self-care in counseling families regarding end of life situations.
  - 2. Increase students’ perceived ability to assist families to cope.
  - 3. Improve student’s perceived ability to collaborate interprofessionally in addressing palliative care issues.
  - 4. Generate student interest in palliative care communication in end of life issues.
The Use of Standardized Patient Simulation for Interprofessional Teaching of Palliative Care Communication Skills: **Recruit**

- Participants will consist of triads of health care professionals in maternal-child health settings which may include any of the following:
  - Pediatric /Obstetrical /Gynecology Residents,
  - Neonatal and/or Maternal Fetal Fellows,
  - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Perinatal /Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Neonatal/ Delivery Room Nurse,
  - Neonatal/ Woman’s Health/ Family Individual Across the Life Span/ Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Graduate Students
  - Undergraduate nursing students in Maternal/Child/ Infant rotations,
  - Third year medical students in OB/neonatal rotations,
  - Second/third year Pediatric, Obstetrical and/or Family practice students.
The Use of Standardized Patient Simulation for Interprofessional Teaching of Palliative Care Communication Skills: Recruit

• IRB:
  • Consent participant will be scheduled for participation in three case scenarios over a three hour session in the simulation center of Thomas Jefferson University.
  • Prior to participation in the three simulated case scenarios, the participants will be asked to complete the pre-session open-ended questions.
Mixed methods:

- Qualitative open-ended questions analyzed by the constant comparative method.

- Quantitative analysis:
  - Pre-test post test design
Describe the study / Method:

• **Qualitative analysis:**
  • Narrative data obtained through open-ended questions will be analyzed through a constant comparative method.

• **Quantitative analysis:**
  • Demographic data will be analyzed through the use of descriptive statistic measures.

• The participant/learner completes:
  • Jefferson Scale of Attitudes Toward Physician Nurse Collaboration (Hojat, et al.1999)
  • Jefferson Scale of Empathy (Hojat,2009)
    • Prior to the Palliative Case Standardized Patient teaching strategy and again within a six month time frame after the Palliative Care exercise.
    • A pre-test post test design will be used.
Methods- Call out for three sessions

- Call for three sessions.
- Sent out email for the call at the Jefferson Community.

- We obtained participants only for two:
  - One session in the Fall 2013.
  - One session in the Spring 2014.
  - No response of participants in the Summer 2014 session.
Utilization of Standardized Patients:

• Three case scenarios per semester will be presented by three standardized patients (one standardized patient per physician/nurse team).

• Within each case scenario, the standardized patient will represent either the mother, father of an infant and or child; mother and grandmother of the child, infant, and or maternal patient with a problem and husband and or significant other.
Cases:

• Neonatal chronic life devastating issues:
  • Pulmonary / Neurologic/Gastrointestinal

• Older child:
  • Cancer / Neurological issues.

• Trained the Standardized patients
Methods

- Participants worked collaboratively in 3 patient care scenarios interacting with standardized patients to develop therapeutic communication skills to:
  - “break bad news”,
  - discuss treatment options and plan the direction of care with the family member (standardized patient),
  - provide emotional support.
- After each interaction there was a debriefing period, where the learners discussed their perception of the exercise, improvements for future interactions, and received feedback regarding their performance.
Participants/ Sessions:

• Participants consisted of triads of health care professionals in maternal-child health settings: **Data:**
  
  • 6 Pediatric Residents/Fellows,
  • 1 Clinical Nurse Specialist,
  • 1 Neonatal Staff Nurse,
  • 5 Graduate NP Students,
  • 6 Undergraduate Nursing Students.
## Logistics - Three sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Group 1 (participants 3)</th>
<th>Group 2 (participants 3)</th>
<th>Group 3 (participants 3)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Completing pre-scenario questionnaires</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>0.5 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First scenario</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>0.5 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second half scenario</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.5 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third scenario</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>0.5 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debriefing and completing questionnaires</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>1.0 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0 hour total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.0 hour total
Proposed

- Qualitative analysis:
  - Interprofessional teams debriefing pre and post case/scenario to determine the emergent themes that described the experience and process.
  - Debriefing, the use of reviewing the videos from each Scenario/Case and participant/learners an focus on educational value, the impact on the comfort level of each participant, and the perspective on the value of having several present.

- *Incentives:
Instrumentation

• The participants completed the pre-session and post-session:
  • Open-ended questions,
  • Jefferson Scale of Attitudes Toward Physician Nurse Collaboration,
  • Jefferson Scale of Empathy
Qualitative Results: Pretest:

- **Comfort with end of life conversations:**
  - Comfortable - 55.5%;
  - Not comfortable - 44.4%;
  - Never experienced - 11%

- **Communication ability in assisting patients/families to cope:**
  - **Strengths:** *Good listener* - 44.4 %;
  - Calm, caring, empathetic, respectful - 16.5%;
  - **Weakness:** *Emotional* - 27.7%;
  - Lack of knowledge, experience, confidence - 16.5%.
Qualitative Results: Pretest:

- Communication ability in assisting patients/families to cope:
  - Strengths:
    - Good listener - 44.4 %;
    - Calm, caring, empathetic, respectful - 16.5%;
  - Weakness:
    - Emotional - 27.7%;
    - Lack of knowledge, experience, confidence - 16.5%.
Qualitative Results: Pretest:

• Ability to collaborate with healthcare professionals with end of life issues:
  • Strengths:
    • Happy, enjoy, competent, comfortable and able to collaborate, respect, efficient – 72.2%.
  • Weakness:
    • Patient may be overwhelmed - too many people - 5.5%;
    • Too many questions - 5.5%.
• Dealing with your own emotions:
  • Detached, distanced - 44.4 %;
  • Emotional-16.6%;
  • Limited experience - 16.5%
  • Nervous; 5.5%.
Qualitative Results: Posttest:

- **What did you learn?**
  - Good communication techniques, open ended questions - 27%
  - Teams are important - 27%
  - Importance of silence - 11.1%.
- **What did you learn about palliative care communication?**
  - Body language - 11%;
  - Silence acceptable 11%.
Qualitative Results: Posttest:

• **What changes in your practice?**
  • Communication - straightforward, provide structure, read & practice - 38.8%.

• **Strengths of this educational experience?**
  • Learn from each other, work with multiple disciplines, teamwork - 27.7%;
  • Silence is acceptable 11%
  • Practice communication 11%
  • Standardized patients were outstanding 11%.
Quantitative Results

• Students scored on the high end of the range for both physician nurse collaboration and empathy.

• There was no significance difference:
  • Total physician nurse collaboration scores as a result of the palliative care communication teaching strategy.

• Total empathy scores:
  • Were significantly higher after the palliative care communication teaching strategy:
    • \( t = -0.2609; \) df=17; \( p = 0.018; \) CI 95%.
Conclusion/Discussion

- All of the participants identified knowledge and skills gained through this experiential teaching strategy:
  - Importance of practicing communication,
  - Importance of interprofessional teams,
  - The importance of body language,
  - Improved ability to communicate,
  - Silence is acceptable
Conclusion/Discussion

• No increase in physician nurse collaboration was found.

• It may be that those who have positive attitudes towards collaboration may have been drawn to participate.

• Using this palliative care teaching strategy with students and practitioners increases their empathy in patient interactions.

• Students rated this workshop very highly and asked for more opportunities.