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Title: Implementation and Evaluation of a Commercially-Prepared Clinical Simulation Scenario in a Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Abstract

The purpose of this project was to implement and evaluate a commercially prepared simulation scenario as a teaching strategy with associate degree nursing students in a clinical nursing course during the spring semester of 2009. The Nursing Education Simulation Framework was used to guide the project. The clinical simulation scenario consisted of *Standard Granny*, an 87 year-old female with abnormal heart rate and rhythm. This scenario offered opportunities for validation of nursing skills, decision making opportunities, and prioritization of care. At the end of each scenario the students evaluated the experience using the Simulation Design Scale (SDS) which measured the frequency with which the students agreed with the simulation design and the importance of each design element.

The sample consisted of 81 sophomore nursing students who had completed three semesters of nursing courses. The findings indicated that the students found favor in the actual design of the clinical simulation experience and that all elements of the simulation were important for their success in the learning activity. The conclusions of this study indicate that the clinical simulation experience was a success as a teaching strategy in the associate degree nursing program. The implications of the study indicate that the students will be better prepared to care for their patients upon graduation.