A Case Study Scavenger Hunt for Senior Nursing Students

As part of the baccalaureate nursing curriculum, senior nursing students enroll in a course entitled Synthesis Seminar. The purpose of this course is to provide opportunities for students to analyze and synthesize content from all previous and current nursing courses to help prepare for the NCLEX-RN and nursing practice. Due to known variations in clinical placements, students do not receive the same level of exposure to various nursing content areas. Therefore, as part of this course, case studies were incorporated from several areas of nursing for standardization, including maternal health, pediatrics, mental health, and fundamentals of nursing. The purpose of this article is to describe the case study associated with fundamentals of nursing.

A combined strategy of a case study and low-fidelity simulation was used. Previous research demonstrates effectiveness of this strategy on student learning (Raurell-Torredà, Olivet-Pujol, Romero-Collado, Malagon-Aquilera, Patiño-Masó, & Baltasar-Baqué, 2015). The goal of the exercise was to provide students with an interactive review of the fundamentals of nursing course with a focus on safety issues and basic nursing skills. Learning objectives included: (a) Select the proper personal protective equipment based on the client presentation; (b) Identify the potential client safety issues; (c) Assess the proper use of common devices found in the clinical setting and modify use, as needed; (d) Explain the potential issues that could occur in the patient on the basis of findings; and (e) Detect alterations in vital signs and explain possible causes.

For this exercise, students were divided into groups of two to five. The students were first presented with a case study of a hospitalized client with pneumonia complicated by respiratory failure, enteral feedings, and urethral catheter placement. Students were given several tasks to complete related to the client case. These tasks included questions about the case study, such as identifying abnormal assessment findings, describing potential causes, devising possible interventions, and evaluating completeness of orders. Students were asked to complete a Braden scale for skin assessment risk and the Morse Fall Risk scale based on the provided client information. The class reviewed answers to the case together after completion of the exercise.

In addition to the theoretical evaluation of the case, students were presented with a low-fidelity manikin designed to represent the client. Students were asked to perform a scavenger hunt on the client, looking for any potential safety issues or incorrect use of medical devices. Examples of issues included having the head of the bed flat while receiving enteral feedings, the cane out of reach for a client who uses a mobility device, the urinary catheter bag placed on the side rails of the bed, and infusing medication labeled with another client’s name. After each of the groups assessed the client, the scenario was reviewed as a class. Each group was asked to identify an issue found on the client, and then a group member was asked to resolve the issue for the client. For example, if the head of bed was flat, the student needed to raise the head of the bed to the appropriate angle. Students were also presented with mid-simulation with different infectious disease scenarios, such as for Clostridium difficile, necessitating the donning of personal protective equipment prior to completing the intervention. Discussions were also initiated surrounding possible sequelae related to the issue, such as aspiration. The session concluded with an NCLEX-RN–style practice question exercise.

Student feedback of the case study was overall positive. Students appreciated the opportunity to have an interactive learning session, and they felt it was beneficial to review principles associated with information learned in the first semester. Of note, none of the groups were able to identify all issues. Students requested repetition of this case study for future cohorts.

Reference

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