

Utilizing Internet Resources to Teach Student Nurses Spirituality

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Introduction and Background

This innovative teaching collaboration facilitates clinical informatics and spirituality awareness in student nurse development. Research has shown that nursing education regarding spiritual care is lacking and nurses do not consistently address patients' spiritual needs (Deal, 2010). Incorporating informatics provides access to a wealth of diverse internet information to improve nurse spiritual awareness. Ultimately, this will improve their self-confidence in addressing patient's spiritual care when they are professional nurses. Each institution has chaplain services. Nurses commonly do not know how to approach spirituality or use resources for spiritual care in their place of work. Incorporating clinical informatics facilitates successful student professional nurse development in addressing patient's spiritual needs.

Methods

Teaching methods include internet links related to spirituality articles and chaplain services. Each nursing student via anonymous electronic survey submitted questions prior to the presentation. The hospital chaplain was a guest speaker who facilitated discussions surrounding patient's spirituality needs and referral to chaplain services. Bandura (1997) self-efficacy theoretical framework influenced this project. The goals are to improve patient-centered and family-centered care by developing professional nurses who are sensitive to patient's spiritual needs. The new generation of nursing students requires reinforcement that involves practical use of technology. Internet tools provide positive reinforcement, encouragement, structure, and technology to improve self-efficacy in addressing a patient's spiritual needs.

Results

This educational collaboration incorporates the *QSEN Prelicensure KSAs 6 competencies* (www.qsen.org): Patient-Centered Care, Teamwork and Collaboration, Evidence-based Practice (EBP), Quality Improvement (QI), Safety, and Informatics. Overall, the nursing students thought the presentation was a great idea and helpful to build confidence in discussions to address patient's spiritual needs. Students requested more practice scenarios.

Discussion

The goals of this spirituality and informatics presentation are to improve the student nurse self-efficacy in assessment and provide the tools to address patients' spiritual needs. The chaplain emphasized authenticity during patient communication to inquire what helps them and prior coping skills. The chaplain emphasized that chaplain services are available at all times to assist staff and patient's spiritual needs. The ultimate goal is to improve patient's spiritual care. The incorporation of technology during clinical practicum empowers each student to be competent in spiritual care and referral.

Selected References:

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