Applying QSEN Competencies in Simulation Clinical: Key to Preparing Safe Nurse Clinicians

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Background
National League for Nursing promotes the use of simulation-based learning in enhancing critical thinking skills among undergraduate nursing students. As an innovator and a proponent of simulation learning, the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing recognizes the importance of simulation in preparing safe nurse clinicians.

Purpose
The purpose of this project is to describe an innovative approach used in simulation in the first sequence undergraduate nursing course (Adult and Elder I) at New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing that integrated the QSEN competencies of patient-centered care, safety, teamwork, collaboration, and evidence based practice.

Methods
Adult and Elder I consists of didactic, off-campus, and on-campus simulation clinical. Toward the end of the semester, students in the on-campus simulation clinical complete a summative evaluation to demonstrate their competencies. To prepare for this competency evaluation, students are required to attend open simulation practice sessions. During evaluation, instructors observe and evaluate the students, using a QSEN-based rubric to indicate if students meet the criteria for each competency. Each semester an analysis is conducted comparing the pass rates as well as the top 5 items that most students missed.

Results
Data shows that there has been a 5.4% increase in the pass rate in the Fall 2016 cohort compared with the Fall 2015 cohort. In Fall 2016, 76.2% (n=218) met the competencies on their first attempt compared with Fall 2015 pass rate of 70.8% (n=206).

Conclusions
This project described an innovative approach used in simulation clinical that integrated important QSEN competencies. As the data suggests, providing individualized attention and feedback during simulation practice and requiring students to complete simulation practice sessions before their simulation evaluation could enhance performance of competencies needed to provide safe and effective patient care.