Medication Safety in an Accelerated BSN Program

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Introduction

- Efforts to reduce medical errors in nursing practice are at the forefront of educational experiences
- Innovative teaching strategies in the simulation lab are used to incorporate QSEN competencies in a fundamentals nursing course of an Accelerated BSN program

Objectives

- Identify an innovative teaching/learning strategy related to safe medication administration
- Students will demonstrate safe medication administration by:
  - Identifying the appropriate drug
  - Stating the rationale for medication use
  - Determine safe dosages
  - Calculate dosages
  - Properly identify the patient
  - Administer medications by a variety of routes
  - Observe for side effects
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of the medications
  - Address concerns of medication reconciliation

Materials and Methods

- Materials used in the learning activities include:
  - Wireless barcode scanners
  - Electronic health record
  - Provider orders
  - Electronic medication administration record
  - Relevant labs and diagnostics
- Simulation scenarios are offered to offer students the opportunity to understand the 5 stages of the medication administration process:
  - Ordering prescribing
  - Transcribing and verifying
  - Dispensing and delivering
  - Administering
  - Monitoring and reporting

Results

- This innovative project introduced patient-centered care, safety, teamwork and collaboration, and informatics into the curriculum
- The setting allowed for learning in a safe, simulated clinical environment
- Students and faculty verbalized satisfaction with the teaching strategy

Conclusions

- Safe medication administration requires critical thinking and clinical decision-making
- Simulation scenarios provide a realistic approach to the medication process in a safe setting where patient risks are eliminated

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