Enhancing systems thinking for undergraduate nursing students using the ‘Friday Night at the ER’ (FN@ER) simulation.

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Purpose/Goal/Aim
- To engage undergraduate students in simulated complex problem solving.
- To assess for changes in their self-perceived critical and systems thinking skills.
- To assess application of the 6 QSEN competencies.

Methods
- Pre-licensure (n=104) and RN-to-BSN (n=60)
- Students participated in the ‘FN@ER’
- Simulated the challenges of managing 24 hours in a hospital.

Measurements
- STS score – 20 items (α=0.91)
- Person Effort subscale – 7 items (α=0.67)
- Reliance on Authority subscale – 10 items (α=0.75)

QSEN Competencies
- 6 open-ended Questions

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systems Thinking Scale (STS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Significantly higher average STS scores post-simulation (b = 3.24, 95% CI for b = [1.76, 4.73], p &lt; 0.001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significantly higher average scores on Personal Effort subscale post-simulation (b = 1.25, 95% CI for b = [0.71, 1.80], p &lt; 0.001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significantly higher average scores on Reliance on Authority subscale post-simulation (b = 3.15, 95% CI for b = [2.48, 3.83], p &lt; 0.001).</td>
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QSEN Competencies | Significance
------------------|-----------
Patient-Centered Care | ns*
Teamwork and Collaboration | ns
Evidence Based Practice | ns
Quality Improvement (QI) | p=0.008
Safety | ns
Informatics | ns

*ns=not significant

Students reported high levels of satisfaction with FN@ER.

Conclusions
- Nurse educators should consider using the FN@ER to challenge students' critical and systems thinking.
- Hospital nurse educators should also consider using the FN@ER to assist new graduate nurses transitioning to practice.
- FN@ER would be beneficial for practicing nurses developing leadership skills.