Clinical Learning Opportunities for Undergraduate Nursing Students during the COVID19 Pandemic

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Background

- The Nurse Managed Wellness Clinic (NMWC) provides on-site clinical experiences for nursing and allied health students
- Maintaining effective communication skills and patient safety are essential to healthcare teamwork and best patient outcomes
- COVID19 pandemic limited face-to-face clinical opportunities for undergraduate students in Spring 2021.

Purpose

Purpose: to provide undergraduate nursing students clinical opportunities through the Nurse Managed Wellness Clinic during the COVID19 pandemic

Objectives

Objectives: Working together with the NMWC teaching faculty, the student will:
1. Demonstrate professional verbal and non-verbal communication that supports collaboration between the healthcare team members and quality patient-centered care.
2. Provides for safety needs of patient population during a community COVID vaccination / health assessment clinic.

Methods

Pre-Clinical Assignment

ZOOM: Pre-Clinical Meeting
Reviewed preclinical assignment
Introduction of Student teams
Clinic expectations / roles
Clinic Day
8-8:30AM Students meet at the facility
8:30-9 AM Familiarize with clinic areas, roles, and equipment
9-3:30 PM Vaccination clinic appointments
3:30-4 PM Clean up
4-4:30 PM Clinical Self-Evaluation/ Reflection, and Survey Monkey (Student Provider Satisfaction survey)

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLINIC:</th>
<th>Total Number of Clinics</th>
<th>Student Participants by Program of Study</th>
<th>Total Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Dept Vaccination Clinics</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health System</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMWC Health Assessment</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Comments

- “I enjoyed being able to be a part of a historical event in a way that provides hope to the community. It was also great to expand my knowledge on patient teaching and education.”
- “Educating the patient was one main concepts of this clinical experience. Through this experience I learned effective communication can contribute to effective patient care.”
- “Working together as a group was one main concepts of this clinical experience. helped to improve my understanding on patient teaching and education.”
- “I was able to connect with the community and become more involved.”
- “Being a part of a group was essential for this clinical experience, through the experience I was able to see the importance of effective communication to contribute to effective patient care.”

Conclusion

The NMWC alternative clinical activities successfully met the learning objectives focused on safety and communication skills for the nursing and allied health students. The experiences were timely, addressing the need for hands-on clinical practice experience for undergraduate nursing students during COVID19 mitigation restrictions in community clinical partner health organizations. The partnership with the community health system and the county health department demonstrates a collaborative practice between academia and practice. The student participation in the COVID Vaccination in our community enhanced understanding of the role of nursing and education in providing for the health of our community while meeting the student and program learning goals.

Limitations

This alternative clinical activity provides hands-on experience to supplement restricted clinic hours during the COVID pandemic. This activity was offered to students in all four semesters of the associate degree nursing program, as well as to students from the other allied health programs at the college. The outcomes for this experience were designed to be common to all health programs, they focused on communication and patient safety which are essential to Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN Institute, 2020) and Interprofessional Education (Interprofessional Collaborative, 2010). Student class schedules and limited availability of vaccines and regular vaccination clinic days prohibited students from programs outside of the nursing program from participating. A total of 160 students participated in 21 clinic days. The majority of students were nursing students; this was not a true IPE event. Students from first year and second year nursing worked well together.

References