THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNDERGRADUATE PRECEPTOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Participants: Barbara Jennings-Garant, MS, RN, CNS, Lissi Hansen, RN, PhD, Laura Daudistel, RN, BSN, CCTN, Katie S. McRae, MS, RN, CNS, Carla Pentecost, MS, RN, Ruth Tadesse, RN, MS, PMHNP, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon.

PURPOSE/AIMS: The purpose of the pilot project was to develop an undergraduate preceptor education program to prepare nursing staff and their units to optimize the clinical experience of Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE) students. A collaborative group of nursing school faculty and hospital-based advanced practice nurses developed the program.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The project was conducted on two acute care units. Unit A was the "intervention" unit and B was the "control" unit. Throughout the project period, students on both units had similar clinical experiences in terms of competencies and course expectations. Unit A staff nurses received an educational program: 1) viewing of the OCNE video; 2) learning about the OCNE Clinical Model, which consists of concept based learning activities, coaching skills, in-depth knowledge of competencies and development of critical thinking; and 3) participating in high-fidelity simulation and mid-fidelity experiences. Simulation gave staff nurses an idea of the student experience.

OUTCOMES: Staff nurse and student surveys were completed on both units before and after the implementation of the undergraduate preceptor education program. Survey findings showed an overall mean improvement in understanding of the OCNE program, including the Clinical Model, on Unit A. An additional outcome was the development of a foundation for collaboration between the School of Nursing and the Hospital inpatient units.

CONCLUSION: The long-term goal for the project was to develop an educational program to be used in all settings where OCNE students will be practicing. Therefore, next steps might include piloting the preceptor curriculum in other settings.

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