Improving the Safety and Effectiveness of Nursing Student Handoff Communications with the Nursing Handoff Educational Bundle (NHEB)

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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the effectiveness of a Nursing Handoff Educational Bundle (NHEB) for Accelerated Bachelor of Science (ABS) students.

Background

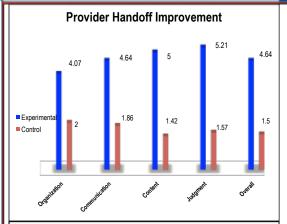
- Nearly 88% of novice nursing adverse events and near-misses involve handoffs (Ebright, 2004)
- Novice nurses do not engage in safe handoff practices (Holly & Poletick, 2014)
- Inadequate handoff education may pose significant safety risks.
- A handoff Educational Bundle for medical residents reduced medical errors and adverse events by 15.5% (Starmer et al, 2013)
- LOCAL DEFICITS were noted in the handoff education of Rutgers-SNC nursing students- Variable processes, variable education, variable evaluation.

Methods

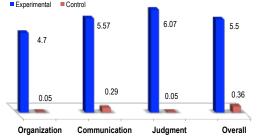
- Design: Quasi-experimental pretest, post-test
- Sample: 28 third semester ABS students in equal groups, blinded assignment.
- Procedure: Data collected at beginning and end of a 15 week semester. Data collected while students provided and received handoff in the clinical setting.
- NHEB was provided to the experimental group following baseline data collection.
- **Measurement tools:** Handoff CEX tool (Horwitz et al., 2013).
- Ethical: IRB approval obtained.

Student Workshop Clinical faculty education NHEB Standardized Handoff CEX evaluation tool

Measurements



Recipient Handoff Improvement Experimental Control



Key Findings

The NHEB improves student handoff communication skills and provides a standardized educational process for a handoff curriculum.

The Handoff CEX

- can readily be incorporated into clinical evaluation tools
- provides standard feedback for students.

Limitations of the Study

- Small sample size,
- · single cohort.
- It is unknown whether the improvement in nursing student handoff skills translates to reductions in adverse events

 First a Studies.

Further Study:

The NHEB should be evaluated for use in pre-licensure nursing programs and adapted to fit local needs.

The NHEB should be evaluated for use with novice nurses, post-graduation.