

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

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- 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

- Population:** Nursing and health career program students
- Setting:** A clinical teaching plan implemented between Feb 1- April 29, 2021
- an 8-hr COVID vaccination clinic at the health department and health system
 - OR an alternative 6-hr Health Assessment clinic at the NMWC
- All students completed the COVID Vaccination clinic pre-assignment and Zoom meeting.**

Methods

Vaccination Clinics

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)

Undergraduate students (nursing, human services, and medical assistant programs) and clinical instructor work together at a COVID Vaccination clinic

Results

CLINIC:	Total number clinics	Student Participants by Program of Study								Total Number Students
	-	Nurs 120	Nurs 150	Nurs 205	Nurs 215	HS	RT	OTA	MA	-
Health Dept Vaccination Clinics	21	18	20	18	30	1	4	7	2	100
Health System	3			4	1					5
NMWC -Health Assessment	8	14	15							29
TOTAL		32	35	22	31	1	4	7	2	134

STUDENT PARTICIPANT SURVEY

N=134 students participated in all clinics (105 students= vaccination clinics, 29 students=health assessment clinic)

The health assessment clinics at the NMWC included health assessments and BP screenings

	Completely	Mostly	Some	Not At All
• The student will demonstrate professional verbal and non-verbal communication that supports collaboration between the healthcare team members and quality patient-centered care.	96.30%	3.70%	0.00%	0.00%
• The student will provide for the identified safety needs for the patient population attending a community COVID vaccination clinic.	98.15%	1.85%	0.00%	0.00%
• Students and staff worked together to provide safe, patient-centered care.	96.30%	3.70%	0.00%	0.00%
• Students and staff worked together to provide clear communication to clients.	94.44%	5.56%	0.00%	0.00%

SELF- REFLECTION

WHAT DID I LEARN?

Topic	Percentage
identified safety needs	0.87%
Clinic logistics	0.55%
Teamwork- roles	19.84%
Knowledge about vaccine	15.87%
Improved Communication	15.87%
Proficient Vaccination	19.84%
Patient Views about vaccination	14.28%

STUDENT COMMENTS

Will you implement at least one practice improvement into your future clinical work as a result of this experience?

- “Yes, I will be more assertive in my interactions with patients and coworkers instead of waiting for them to ask me to do something.”
- “...it takes a group/team to make any experience to run smoothly & safe.”
- “Educating the patient was one main concepts of this clinical... helped to improve my understanding on patient teaching and educating.”
- “Communication is key in any clinical situation, through this experience I learned effective communication can contribute to effective patient care.”
- “... “As the nurses and students established relationships with each other and the clients, effective communication seemed to just flow. Everyone felt more comfortable and in turn patient safety was enhanced and anxiety levels were dramatically decreased in everyone involved!”
- “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, confidence, and experience with IM injections.”

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, 2016). 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 100 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.

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 clinic 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.

References

Interprofessional Collaborative. (2016). *Core competencies for interprofessional practice: Report of an expert panel*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://ipecollaborative.org/uploads/IPEC-Core-Competencies.pdf>

QSEN Institute. (2020). *QSEN Competencies*. Retrieved from Quality and Safety Education for Nurses: <https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksa/>