

Poster

The value of speciality [day oncology and renal dialysis] placement for undergraduate student nurses

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Abstract

Introduction: Student nurses are regularly placed in acute clinical areas to provide students with clinical experience thus linking theory with real situations. Students placed in specialist clinical areas such as day oncology and renal dialysis may not be able to meet normal clinical expectations such as, routine patient care and medications. However these specialist clinical areas provide students with wonderful learning experiences unique to the area although one of the challenges is to ensure students meet learning objectives for the clinical placement.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were undertaken with seven, third year final semester students and 13 registered nurses working with these third year students. All interviews were taped and transcribed; a thematic analysis provided key themes within the interviews.

Findings: Key findings from the student's data discussed the exposure to cross collaboration and team work between nurses, doctors and allied health. Comments also reflected the benefit of being involved in excellent communication and assessment skills from the nurses. Speciality skills and understanding patient's chronic disease trajectory were also benefits from these areas. Students noted they had to change their learning objectives to meet the new expectations of the areas.

Conclusion: Speciality placements are an excellent experience for the undergraduate nurse providing opportunities to see excellence in team work, communication and assessment but also in identifying future desire as an oncology or renal specialist nurse.