

Taking the ELNEC Critical Care Curriculum to the Next Level: Concept Application through High-Fidelity Hybrid Simulation Scenario Training

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Introduction

Objective: Examine the efficacy of applying simulation to the core concepts taught in End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Critical Care curriculum while providing a safe challenging environment with immediate feedback and support.

Background

The ELNEC program introduces foundational tools for effective communication. However, it does not afford the opportunity to practice these skills. Utilization of simulation scenarios creates a stress level that mimics the reality of a critical care environment, including families that must face overwhelming and painful decisions. Simulation allows for actual implementation of the communication tools introduced in ELNEC in a safe, mentored environment.

Design/ Method

Twenty-one participated in the simulation training at the UF Center for Simulation Education and Safety Research (CSESaR) Center, including 19 registered nurses, one ARNP and one social worker. All participated in three simulation scenarios after receiving ELNEC didactic training. Participants received immediate feedback from trained hospice and palliative care professionals on communication techniques. Post simulation, participants completed a voluntary evaluation of their experience using the Likert scale (5=strongly agreed: 1= strongly disagree) and subjective feedback.



Results

#	Questions	SA	A	N	D	SD	NA
1	As a result of this training I more clearly understand which patient will qualify for palliative care and hospice services.	19	5	1	0	0	0
2	I feel more comfortable communicating with patients and families about difficult topics after this training.	15	7	5	0	0	0
3	After this training, I believe there are new patients I will be able to identify and advocate for palliative and hospice services.	16	8	1	0	0	0
4	This educational event provided better ways in which to discuss distressing news with patients and families.	16	7	1	0	0	0
5	Having the opportunity to simulate ways in which to discuss distressing news with patients and their families was valuable.	15	7	1	0	0	0
6	During the simulation I found the immediate feedback from UF Shands and palliative professionals valuable.	14	8	0	0	0	0

Goal

Improve nurses' ability to communicate effectively regarding hospice and palliative care through actual simulation practice and barrier identification



Comments

- “Great feedback and reinforcement of information”
- “We need to have these conversations earlier, not wait until they’re dying”
- “We should bring in Palliative when the patient first comes into the ED.”

Conclusion

Written evaluations and anecdotal comments revealed that high-fidelity hybrid simulation incorporated into the ELNEC didactic curriculum enhanced the participants' ability to communicate with patients and families who are in the midst of emotional, spiritual or physical crises associated with chronicity and end of life.