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Admission to discharge: Obstetric simulated clinical experiences

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With an increase in nursing programs, there is more competition for clinical sites for maternal-newborn clinical rotations. High fidelity simulated clinical experiences are being substituted for hospital clinical rotations. A technical college in the Southeast region of the United States of America is using five-hour simulated clinical experiences in which obstetric and newborn high-fidelity manikins are used as substitutes for hospital clinical rotations. Three patient scenarios are used for the simulated clinical experiences: gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, or preterm labor. Newborn nursing care and maternal complications are also incorporated into the scenarios. This use of simulated clinical experiences has been endorsed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the National League of Nursing as a substitute for hospital clinical rotations. Nursing students have increased understanding of the entire antepartum nursing care to postpartum discharge process by participating in the simulated clinical experiences and are able to obtain hands-on nursing care experience when unable to obtain the clinical experience due to lack of a hospital clinical rotations.

Biography

Cheryl L DeGraw has many years of experience in Maternal-Child Nursing Care. She is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and has provided nursing care in labor and delivery, all three levels of the Newborn Nursery, and in Postpartum or Mother-Baby Units. She is currently the Lead Instructor for Family-Centered Nursing Care at a Technical College in South Carolina. She developed obstetric simulated clinical experiences (SCEs) to provide alternative clinical rotations to hospital settings when they are unavailable for nursing students. These SCEs have increased nursing student's understanding of the antepartum, intrapartum postpartum and newborn nursing care.

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