



Learning in Practice

Cleanliness Champion Module in Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Programmes at Bell College

Background

The Scottish Executive have highlighted that tackling healthcare associated infections should be a high priority for all NHS staff. The web based Cleanliness Champion Programme was implemented within NHS Scotland in 2003 for Registered Nurses and Midwives. Recognising that this was also an important area within the pre-registration programme a meeting was set up with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to explore the possibility of including this module within the student curriculum. Following several meetings there was an agreement to pilot it with student nurses and midwives within Bell College. Working collaboratively with NES, a site licence was purchased and relevant packs supplied.

Following a successful pilot the module became a substantive element in the curriculum.

Challenges/Action

Initially one lecturer acted as the main link for the module but other staff assisted with student support. The two NHS areas we work with, Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway were excited by this introduction to the student curriculum.

There were many challenges in delivering a shared module for student nurses and midwives. Student nurses undertook it in year one whilst student midwives were in year two of their programme just prior to a birthing unit placement. Different levels of learning outcomes were therefore required and it was recognised that midwifery students needed some extra materials relevant only to midwifery practice. Appropriate tutorials were established to support this.

The main challenges revolved around access to computers, printers which at times were problematic, and students undertaking a whole module which was e learning and therefore required a high level of commitment and motivation. Initially some students complained about the timing of mentorship sessions and lack of clarity of what was expected from them in the written part of the assessment. The students are required to source material on line and complete a portfolio that demonstrates their evidence of learning for each section of the e module. Initial evaluations indicated that although the students found the programme time consuming they enjoyed the flexibility of this teaching method. Extra time was included following the pilot study which increased student satisfaction with the module.

In response to student evaluations, a student guide has been developed and mandatory mentorship sessions included in the programme. This means students have a better idea of what is expected from them. IT technicians are available to provide support if and when necessary and input into the first mentorship session. Students are asked to keep a study log to indicate time spent on the programme and the lecturer can log on to ensure students are accessing the web based material to support this module.

Impact

The Scottish Executive have recognised this as an area of good practice and challenged other universities to include the module within their curriculum.

Sixty four students have successfully completed this module. Although it is too early to fully evaluate the impact on practice, local NHS staff have commented that Bell College students who have completed the programme have a high awareness of standard infection control measures.

Students who complete this module are awarded the Cleanliness Champion Certificate, which increases their employability.

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