This is the published version


Available from Deakin Research Online

http://hdl.handle.net/10536/DRO/DU:30041187

Reproduced with the kind permission of the copyright owner

Copyright: 2011, State of Victoria, Department of Health
Online facilitation toolkit

Dr Helen Forbes and Dr Nicole Phillips, Deakin University; Dr Barbara West, Culture Works, Victoria

Overview

Clinical placement can be difficult for students, with much being expected of them in a short time. These expectations include learning skills and developing the ability to assess, plan, implement and evaluate patient care. They must also demonstrate appropriate professional attitudes and behaviours with patients and colleagues from differing cultural backgrounds. The highly challenging nature of the clinical environment demands the need for high-level support. Nurses with varying levels of nursing and teaching experience facilitate nursing students in the clinical setting. Such facilitation roles include preceptor, facilitator, clinical teacher/educator, coach, and buddy.

Issue

Facilitators’ understanding of their role is related to the quality of student learning outcomes. Those with a ‘student focus’ use a broader range of teaching strategies than those with a ‘teacher focus’. Being an effective facilitator therefore requires an understanding of the complexities of the role and a student-focused approach. This focus includes an awareness of students’ differing needs due to factors such as education level and cultural background, and thus an ability to select from a range of strategies that promote each student’s development of professional competence.

Solution

The School of Nursing & Midwifery at Deakin University in collaboration with Culture Works has developed an innovative, interactive online toolkit to arm facilitators with the skills to improve the quality of student outcomes and ensure preparedness. The toolkit will ‘go live’ in trimester 1, 2011 for all clinical facilitators supporting the school’s students in a range of settings.

Outcome

Effectiveness of the toolkit will be evaluated in mid-2011.