BSN Students' Reflections: Interprofessional QI and Safety Course
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Background: The Institute of Medicine (2000) reported that healthcare-related harmful events result in 48,000-98,000 deaths/year, amounting to 1 death/5-10 minutes. 70% of healthcare-related sentinel events were reportedly due to communication errors. This highlights not only the need for improvement in the quality of patient care, but for the ability of the healthcare team members to communicate effectively with each other. The UT Health Science Center received an IHI (Institute for Healthcare Improvement) Open School quality improvement (QI) and patient safety grant that provided opportunity for students from the Medical and the Nursing Schools to work interprofessionally in the ‘Quality and Patient Safety Course’. This study evaluated the nursing students’ perceptions of the interprofessional experience.

Level of Program: undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and 3rd–year medical students (MS).

Targeted Learning Outcomes: The course was aimed for students to identify and acquire knowledge and skills to solve quality and safety issues relative to their practice as well as communicating effectively with other members of the healthcare team.

Teaching-Learning Activities: MS on Clerkship rotation and volunteer nursing students (Semester-II) from the nursing research courses were formed into interprofessional teams. Students had didactic sessions on patient safety, QI tools, interprofessional education, health literacy, and leadership. Other activities include discussion board, group case analysis, self-reflective exercises, and course evaluation.

Evaluation: Pre and post knowledge surveys were conducted. Emerging themes from self-reflections include appreciation of the collaborative experience and clarification of role perception, increased level of communication and respect for medical students and other members of the healthcare team, value of course content especially QI metrics and information about IHI health and safety initiative. BSN students appreciated the opportunity of working with the medical students at this level in their education, preparing them better for future interprofessional interactions.

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