



NCUR 2021 Proceedings

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome-Peer Training Using Nursing Students in Infant NAS Assessment

Nursing & Public Health - Time: Wed 12:00pm-1:00pm - Session Number: 6025

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Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is a medical condition occurring in infants from maternal drug exposure. Treatment for NAS is expensive so early identification and intervention is essential. Nurses can recognize early signs and symptoms of withdrawal in the newborn after receiving NAS training. University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown nursing students spend clinical time in the NICU setting with little focus on NAS assessment. Although NAS is discussed in maternal/neonatal lectures, allotted time for building NAS assessment skills has not been implemented. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine effective educational strategies for nursing students in caring for the NAS infant. Junior nursing students will observe a demonstrational DVD about NAS scoring along with a guided lecture about opioid addiction and the effects on the fetus during pregnancy. Students will complete the Finnegan Neonatal Scoring Tool (FNAST) after watching the DVD with practice exams using senior nursing students as peer trainers to guide their instruction. These students will also receive a NAS lecture from their instructor as a traditional method. A comparative analysis will be performed between the two instructional methods. It is anticipated that utilizing DVD instruction, and guided lectures, using peer trainers, will provide better educational outcomes and knowledge retention than traditional methods.

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Utilizing student nurses for peer to peer training in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) assessments

Education - Time: Tue 2:00pm-3:00pm - Session Number: 4510

Jaidyn Fronzaglio, SNUPJ, Elizabeth Kerr, SNUPJ, Alyssa Figueiredo, SNUPJ, Madison Flaugh, SNUPJ, Shayna Lundberg, SNUPJ, Rachael Genesi, SNUPJ, Dr. Jennifer Cacciotti, PhD, MEd, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh @ Johnstown, Johnstown, PA, 15904

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Over the past 15 years, infants being born in the United States with opioid addiction has tripled. Treatment is expensive so early identification and intervention of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is essential. Nurses can recognize early signs and symptoms of withdrawal in the newborn after receiving NAS training. This offers an unique opportunity for Pitt-Johnstown faculty to address the health impact of opioid addiction by engaging nursing students through education and training of this epidemic. Although information is provided about NAS, such as causes of NAS and signs and symptoms, in undergraduate nursing programs, there is limited focus on teaching the skills in assessing newborns for withdrawal symptoms. And it has been well documented that peer training among nursing students can improve communication skills, self-efficacy, and improved knowledge attainment in both the student trainers and the trainees. However, currently there is no research that provides evidence based teaching strategies specifically using peer training in NAS assessments among nursing students. Hence, the main purpose of this study is to evaluate if this educational strategy for nursing students through peer to peer training in caring for the NAS infant will provide the same benefits. Therefore, the junior nursing students (n=34) will be educated on NAS assessments using a NAS DVD (provides instructional NAS assessments and practice assessment exams), return demonstration, and 6 senior nursing student peer trainers during the semester's simulation lab. Scoring will be collected and compared by using the Finnegan NAS Scoring tool. The NAS training manual recommends 90% or higher to achieve optimal interrater-reliability (IRR) between the nursing students and peer trainers. Additional data will be collected from the junior nursing students completion of a pre/posttest on NAS, a peer evaluation survey, and during their NICU rotation, scoring a NAS baby with their clinical instructor to compare IRR.

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