

Simulation's impact on patient safety knowledge and confidence in preregistration nursing students in a graduate entry masters degree: A longitudinal study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Following the rapid growth of simulation based education (SBE) in health professions programs, there is much interest in determining the impact of this contemporary approach on learner outcomes. One area often neglected is the concept of praxis, the process whereby knowledge is translated into subsequent action and practice by the learner. Ensuring students competently and appropriately embody patient safety knowledge into their practice is a core objective of many SBE programs. Curtin University's graduate entry Master of Nursing Practice (GEM) degree incorporates a dedicated SBE program to prepare students for fieldwork placements in Australian healthcare. These students are typically advanced learners who bring diverse cultural and life experiences to SBE and clinical practice.

Aim: This study aimed to understand SBE's impact on development and application of patient safety knowledge and confidence in preregistration nursing students over a 2-year GEM program.

Methods: This research adopted a single site, mixed methods, longitudinal cohort study design using an online survey and convenience sampling approach to recruit students from the Master of Nursing Practice course. Respondents completed the validated Health Professional Education in Patient Safety Survey (H-PEPSS) before and immediately after each simulation experience and immediately after each related clinical practicum experience.

Results: This presentation describes the students' knowledge and confidence in areas of patient safety, including clinical and system issues. The results demonstrate how students' knowledge and eventual translation into practice is influenced by classroom, simulation and

practicum experiences, as well as the influence of course progression on their confidence to practice safely.

Conclusion: This research brings together several concepts often underreported in the literature, investigating the translation of simulation into practice with a particular focus on patient safety. Research outcomes provide empirical evidence that SBE supports praxis to enhance patient outcomes.