

Charting the Pathway to Competency:

A New Clinical Evaluation Process



SarahAnn McFadden, PhD, RN, CPN
Hannah Pye, DNP, RN, CEN
Tracy Holt, DNP, RN-BC, CHSE, CNE

PURPOSE:

To evaluate a new weekly clinical evaluation form (W-CEF) to improve the evaluation of essential skills for success as novice RNs.

BACKGROUND:

The 2021 AACN standards focus on clinical judgment and skills essential to the first year of practice.¹ Academic Nurse Educators lack valid and reliable tools to assess student performance in clinical settings.

METHODS:

- W-CEF, based on the Creighton Clinical Evaluation Instrument (C-CEI), was deployed in Summer 2022
- Operationalized for summative decisions and formative evaluation
- W-CEF completed weekly
- Descriptive data analysis was completed

RESULTS:

2885 weekly assessments representing 330 students across 37 clinical facilities. A majority (86.7%) reflect performance in the clinical environment; 13.3% evaluated performance in simulation.

LIMITATIONS:

The C-CEI is validated in the simulation setting. Inadequate demographic data restricted identification of socioeconomic risk factors but enabled blinded analysis. Early data from non-faculty preceptors is skewed due to insufficient evaluator education.

CONCLUSIONS:

Academic nurse educators strive to prepare students for safe and competent practice. Critical evaluation and feedback are essential to student success. The W-CEF supports the early identification of and intervention for students who need additional support and provides an overview of cohort-level knowledge gaps and areas for program improvement.



More Info

Aggregate data on clinical metrics for cohorts and programs
Objective identification of areas for quality improvement

Early identification of students demonstrating substandard performance across multiple settings
n = 9

Successful implementation of increased support resulting in student success
n = 8

Multiple evaluators (n ≈ 4) per student



START
USING W-CEF

FINISH
QUANTITATIVE
CLINICAL
EVALUATION

