

Clinical Evaluation through Transparency; Importance of Anecdotal Documentation

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Abstract

Background/Introduction

As we reimagine the future of nursing education and move towards a competency-based curriculum direct observation in diverse practice settings must be consistently assessed and documented while providing formative feedback to students. The importance of anecdotal documentation needs to be the gold standard when providing feedback regarding clinical performance.

Purpose

Gain consensus on the use of anecdotal documentation as the gold standard when assessing and providing feedback to students in the clinical environment.

Methods or Processes/Procedures

Clinical faculty need to provide weekly written evaluations on student performance addressing opportunities for improvement as well as accolades on performance of specific competencies. Addressing the pros and cons of the clinical day with documented areas of opportunity for improvement allows for remediation prior to the next clinical day. Allowing students to comment and/or sign the written evaluations addressing any concerns raised by the student or instructor would close the feedback loop.

Results

Anecdotal documentation needs to be the gold standard when providing feedback regarding clinical performance.

Limitations

Requires additional time and effort by the clinical instructor to write anecdotal notes versus a checklist approach, prior to the next clinical day.

Conclusions/Implications for Practice

Formative feedback provides the student the opportunity to improve while ensuring transparency on their performance in the clinical area. Addressing the pros and cons of the clinical day with clear documentation allows for opportunities for improvement and progressively building on foundational competencies which will ultimately lead to successful performance in the competencies delineated in the 2021 Essentials.

Biography

Colleen Manzetti, DNP, RN, CNE is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing at Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies at Monmouth University. She serves as the Program Director for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). Dr. Manzetti coordinates the nurse educator track for MSN & DNP students.

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