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MITTEN Saginaw Partnership
Aleda E. Lutz VAMC/Saginaw Valley State University

Home Base Primary Care-Veteran Based

A Dedicated Education Unit was established at the VAs Home Base Primary Care (HBPC). This was a new clinical site for both the VA and the university. This unique setting for student nurses offered ample opportunities for the students to better understand Veteran health care needs and VA services.

- Due to the limited number of RNs, students were assigned to nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, registered dietitians, telehealth nurses, and other health care workers as they made home visits to Veterans.
- The HBPC nurses typically function as a case manager for the Veteran, allowing the students an opportunity to be introduced to this role.
- The experience allowed the students the opportunity to understand how intraprofessional healthcare teams operate and see the benefits of the team approach to Veteran care.
- The home-based primary care (HBPC) clinical rotation gave the students an opportunity to view the unique health care needs within the Veteran population and various referral services offered through the VA.
- Didactic material for the course was revised to include:
 - Increasing the focus of communication and mental health phenomena when discussing home care
 - Stressing the importance of assessing the nature and adequacy of support systems for the home care patient
 - Assisting students to identify the benefits of teamwork and interdisciplinary staffing in home care
 - Revising the written assignments for home care students to include focus on intradisciplinary teams
 - Increasing opportunities for health promotion interventions by involving students in Veteran immunizations.
- Post-Clinical questions for this clinical rotation may include:
 - Where the homes different than what you imagined? (Some Veterans in this area live in very rural areas in homes that are in need of repair.)
 - Did you ask the Veteran about his/her service? Has it impacted his/her current health?
 - What other services are being utilized? Are they from the VA or other places?
 - What are their support systems?