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Palliative Care Unfolding Case Study Summary

SCHOOL OF NURSING

March 2022

First Semester Junior Year

Setting: Home Health

Course Concept: Stress/Coping

Students first meet Sidney Marshal, an older adult patient with a diabetic foot ulcer. The patient has poor health literacy and students will need to assess this and come up with effective ways to deliver education about diet, wound care, and overall diabetes management. The students will also need to explore how the presence of diabetes, the foot ulcer, and suggested lifestyle changes are impacting/may impact the patient on a psychosocial level, and assist in establishing coping mechanisms. Students also get a glimpse of the family dynamics present between the patient and their adult child; Sidney's child is eager to be involved in Sidney's care, and Sidney is resistant to their help for fear of losing independence.

Second Semester Junior Year

Setting: Acute Care

Course Concept: Tissue Integrity/Sepsis

In this simulation students see Sidney as they are first admitted to the hospital for an infected diabetic foot ulcer and progress to sepsis throughout the course of their visits with the patient, ultimately transferring them to the ICU. Students will practice prioritization, clinical judgement, and critical thinking as they relate to noticing changes in patient condition, and apply nursing interventions that align with pathophysiological changes. In addition to practicing wound care, IV medication administration, and mental status assessment, students will have the opportunity to practice implementing sepsis protocol and providing an SBAR report to a physician communicating a patient status change, as well as calling report an ICU nurse to give handoff.

First Semester Senior Year

Setting: Acute Care

Course Concept: Palliation

Sidney Marshall continues to suffer from a non-healing foot ulcer. Sidney went into septic shock that resulted in acute kidney injury, and now requires dialysis. Sidney is experiencing severe pain to their infected foot, as well as chest pain related to fluid volume overload, and severe fatigue related to dialysis. Sidney is not satisfied with their current pain and fatigue management, and is curious about palliative care. Students will have an opportunity to assess patient goals of care, provide patient and family education regarding palliative care and addressing misconceptions, facilitate difficult conversations

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between a patient and family who have differing expectations and goals of care, and begin to explore the various interdisciplinary team members involved in palliative care discussions and initiation.

Second Semester Senior Year

Setting: Acute Care

Course Concept: Healthcare Law

During this simulation students will work with Sidney as they transition from palliative care to hospice, and then provide post-mortem care after the patient has died. Students will explore nursing scope of practice leading end of life care discussions, continue to practice critical conversations with family members and patients who have differing care goals, and explore elements of hospice/comfort care.

If you would like access to copies of the full cases, or to discuss further, please contact Kaleigh Barnett