Practice Summary Paper

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Practice Summary Paper

I enrolled in Old Dominion University’s (ODU) Concurrent Enrollment program to advance my Associates of Nursing to a Bachelors of Nursing. Due to the nature of the concurrent enrollment program, I was completing my associate’s degree classes while taking the online classes to achieve my bachelors. I know that the nature of register nursing has shifted to focus on the importance of a bachelorette degree, and I wanted to enhance my education while I also enhanced my marketability. By accomplishing a Bachelor’s of Nursing, I hope to be hired by the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (CHKD) or Sentara Norfolk General, both whom are trying to become Magnet Status and now require a bachelor’s degree. In addition, I am hoping that my bachelor’s degree, and the knowledge that I have learned through this program, will aid in becoming a flight nurse several years from now. Flight nursing has been my long term goal throughout this program, and I think that finishing my bachelor’s degree is one the steps to reaching my goal.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is a crucial part of providing competent and therapeutic nursing care to patients and their families, and focuses on “inquiry, problem solving, and synthesis”. I have met this core-nursing competency through the completion of Pender’s Theory Application Paper and Business Case Analysis. Pender’s Theory application paper identifies Nola J. Pender’s approach-oriented focus towards nursing, and her goal of promoting health and decreasing the rate of disease. This paper demonstrates the attainment of critical thinking when it highlights Pender’s theory and how it is used to guide professional practice. Pender’s theory is characterized by seven “assumptions” that healthcare providers should assume about their patients. An example of Pender’s affects on nursing literature identifies two separate articles and how their framework
was influenced by Pender’s Health Promotion model. In addition, this paper also correlates Pender’s theory with clinical practice issues I witnessed at the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters. Through these examples we can see how Pender’s Theory Application paper I completed has given examples of nursing theories and how it has impacted nursing practice.

The Business Case Analysis paper demonstrates an attainment of the critical care competency through its focus on nursing staffing discrepancies based on a given scenario. For instance, in this paper I was given a scenario, depicting a nursing shortage, and through research and deductive reasoning, I was tasked with what scenario would be most beneficial for patient care and the budget. Critical thinking was involved throughout the decision making process, for example, when I had to evaluate the potential outcomes of the several choices, and made the decisions based on the interpretation of the data.

**Nursing Practice**

The Nursing practice core competency focuses on the therapeutic nursing interventions; I have met these through my completion of the Therapeutic Nursing Intervention Paper on fall prevention. The Therapeutic Nursing Intervention paper identified a clinical situation that I witnessed where fall prevention measures were grossly ignored and the patient’s safety was compromised. This paper identified nursing interventions and the statistical success noted when these interventions were appropriately initiated. Practice guidelines identified between formal and informal approaches and nursing interventions based on fall prevention were acknowledged and compared to those interventions backed by evidenced based research. In addition, the practical application of interventions based on nursing research and practice guidelines were reviewed. This paper depicts my compliance with nursing practice through the identification of a
major nursing problem and current nursing interventions to be initiated to improve the patient’s safety within the clinical scenario.

**Communication**

The Communication Core Nursing Competency focuses on different communication techniques within the healthcare setting. My completion of the Teaching Project that focused on Pediatric fevers identified my compliance of therapeutic nursing communication within a range of situations. The Teaching project was focused on pediatric fevers and how to help the families identify when it is appropriate to treat a fever, how they should treat a fever, how to determine the severity of the fever, and the need for hospital vs. primary care treatment. Communication became a huge factor in this teaching plan, with first time parents, single parents, teenage parents, and non-English speaking families all needing consideration. To determine what material parents are least familiar with, a Needs Assessment was implemented through the use of flyers, and the teaching plan was tailored to the majority questions. The teaching plan was implemented through pamphlets with vital information that include discharge teaching, a traffic-light model, a list of pharmacy’s with inexpensive thermometers, and a list of over-the-counter antipyretics. In addition to the pamphlet, teaching was also initiated through a demonstration of correct thermometer technique, with the parent demonstrating it back to insure compliance. The use of several different teaching strategies, organized to reach diverse groups of people, found through research with several different researchers, has showed that I have met the core competency on communication.

**Teaching**

The nursing core competency focused on teaching was met through the Global Health PowerPoint presentation on the Pan American Health Organization and the Teaching Project
focused on pediatric fevers, previously mentioned. The Pan American Health Organization PowerPoint was created to teach individuals of the importance of vaccinations throughout the world. It used a presentation format to educate on the need for health promotion, how vaccinations reduce the presence of fatal diseases, and why its importance to vaccinate the vulnerable populations, who are outlined in the presentation. This paper demonstrates the attainment of this core competency through its use of teaching material focused on “communication of health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention across the life span”, as well as enhancing my own knowledge base as well as that of a diverse population.

The teaching project focused on pediatric fevers provides teaching to the parents/guardians of children with fevers. This teaching plan demonstrates the correct method to check a child’s temperature based on there age, along with having the parent also demonstrate to ensure accuracy. Teaching pamphlets that highlight the accurate treatment of a fever depending on the child’s presentation, along with the correct over-the-counter medications to give the child were given to the parents. These aspects of the teaching plan demonstrate the obtainment of the teaching core competency.

**Research**

I met the research core-nursing competency through the completion of Joint Commission Safety/Performance Improvement and Change theory paper. The Safety/Performance Improvement and Change theory paper focused on the importance of patient identification before implementing nursing interventions such as medication administration and/or lab draws. Through the use of evidenced based research, potential solutions to curb misidentification of patients were highlighted; strategies to implement the plan, and ways to implement the strategy through the use of the change theory were distinguished. In addition, a way to evaluate the
practice and the affects were created through measurable outcomes. This paper adequately “incorporates primary nursing research findings as a basis for therapeutic nursing interventions”. It also identifies research-based knowledge along identifying the “efficacy and effectiveness of nursing interventions”.

**Leadership**

Leadership, as a nursing core competency, has been met through my Philosophy of Nursing paper and my Pan American Health Organization PowerPoint, previously mentioned. The Philosophy of Nursing paper demonstrated the Leadership core-nursing competency by portraying my feelings about what nursing entails, what drives my nursing values, and views on professional practice and professionalism. This paper begins with the founders of the nursing profession and examples of how they were instrumental leaders who have shaped the face of nursing. It goes on to depict my “self-direction, professional accountability, and advocacy”, though my explanation of my nursing values, professional practice, and professionalism. The Pan American Health Organization PowerPoint incorporates medical knowledge and interventions to promote healthy communities through the use of vaccinations. In addition, the vulnerable communities within these impoverished countries have been identified, with aid being targeted to children, pregnant women, and the elderly. This PowerPoint depicts leadership because it has assembled communities to work together to promote vaccinations and to promote wellness.

**Professionalism**

I demonstrated my obtainment of the Nursing Core Competency of Professionalism with my completion of my Therapeutic Nursing Interventions paper, which was previously mentioned. This paper focused on fall prevention and the different means of promoting safety
within the given scenario. Within this paper I identified the difference between the formal approach, dictated by evidenced based research and protocols, and the informal approach, which is comprised of those preventative measures the nurse implements on the patient. In addition, the evidenced based research and the practical application findings were compared and contrasted, and used to determine the best strategy to implement safety. This is an example of differentiating between “general, institutional, and specialty-specific standards of practice to guide nursing care”. In addition, this paper encourages nursing interventions that are based on “professional standards of practice using organizational and political process”.

**Culture**

I completed the nursing core competency of culture through my work on the Health Determinants of Brazil paper. This paper focuses on Brazil, where the nation’s demographics, overview of the healthcare system, health indicators, and key risk factors were identified. Researching for this paper truly highlighted the astounding differences between the culture of Brazil and the U.S.A., and increased my awareness of environmental factors that influences health care globally. Through researching health indicators and the organization of the health care system within Brazil I was able to obtain an understanding for nursing interventions within another culture.

**Summary**

My baccalaureate degree program in nursing at ODU occurred concurrently to my RN program through Tidewater Community College; and because of this I feel as though my experience was rather different. I expected my BSN classes to be similar to my RN classes in that I would be tested often on content, instead I found a higher focus on written assignments that prepared me for more a of a manger/educator focus. Through assignments that emphasized the
important of evidenced based research, educational teaching sessions, and cultural consideration, I feel as though my learning experience had been better-rounded with greater depth than if I had solely completed my Associates of Nursing.

An introduction and study of nursing theory has opened my eyes to the different avenues of nursing. These different avenues allow for different thought processes, and ways to handle patient nursing interventions, how to gauge priorities in nursing interventions. While I feel as though my own person ideals and approach towards nursing is mostly similar to Bender's Health Promotion model, through our study of nursing theorist I know that I can take different aspects of several theories to make my own concept of nursing that encourages education.

Since beginning in this bachelors of nursing program I feel as though I have placed a greater emphasize on educating my patients. I felt that the nursing teaching plan really opened my eyes to the amount of things that parents are not aware of; at work and during clinical I now make a greater effort to acknowledge what needs to be taught and to follow through with the appropriate education. Due to this greater attention to education I feel as though my patients are leaving with a better understanding of their diagnosis and more thorough methods of treating the problem at home.
References