

Improving the Safety and Effectiveness of Nursing Student Handoff Communications with the Nursing Handoff Educational Bundle (NHEB)



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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the effectiveness of a Nursing Handoff Educational Bundle (NHEB) for Accelerated Bachelor of Science (ABS) students.

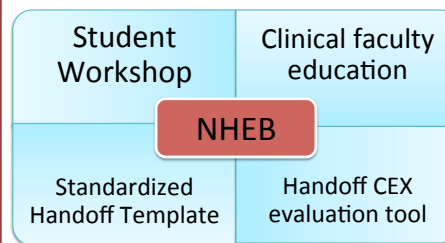
Background

- Nearly 88% of novice nursing adverse events and near-misses involve handoffs (Ebright, 2004)
- Novice nurses do not engage in safe handoff practices (Holly & Poletick, 2014)
- Inadequate handoff education may pose significant safety risks.
- A handoff Educational Bundle for medical residents reduced medical errors and adverse events by 15.5% (Starmer et al, 2013)
- LOCAL DEFICITS** were noted in the handoff education of Rutgers-SNC nursing students- Variable processes, variable education, variable evaluation.

Methods

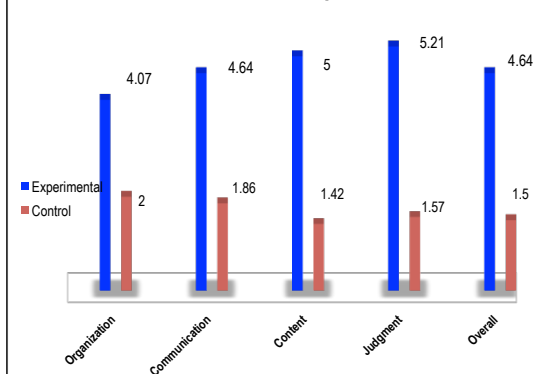
- Design:** Quasi-experimental pretest, post-test
- Sample:** 28 third semester ABS students in equal groups, blinded assignment.
- Procedure:** Data collected at beginning and end of a 15 week semester. Data collected while students provided and received handoff in the clinical setting.
- NHEB was provided to the experimental group following baseline data collection.
- Measurement tools:** Handoff CEX tool (Horwitz et al., 2013).
- Ethical:** IRB approval obtained.

The NHEB

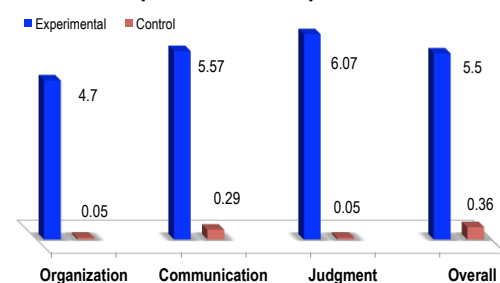


Measurements

Provider Handoff Improvement



Recipient Handoff Improvement



Key Findings

The NHEB improves student handoff communication skills and provides a standardized educational process for a handoff curriculum.

The Handoff CEX

- can readily be incorporated into clinical evaluation tools
- provides standard feedback for students.

Limitations of the Study

- Small sample size,
- single cohort.
- It is unknown whether the improvement in nursing student handoff skills translates to reductions in adverse events

Further Study:

The NHEB should be evaluated for use in pre-licensure nursing programs and adapted to fit local needs.

The NHEB should be evaluated for use with novice nurses, post-graduation.