

Partnerships for Program Enhancements – Inter-Professional Simulation Collaboration

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Inter-professional collaboration is a key to quality medical care. Clinical laboratorians network with physicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals every day. An issue in a college setting is how to incorporate this type of collaboration within the on-campus learning environment. Three years ago, the Howard Community College's Medical Laboratory Technician program began a partnership with the Nursing program to produce a quality simulated collaborative experience for students. Yearly, the Nursing program conducts at least 26 SIM exercises, distributed among 160 students, during their Medical Surgical Nursing course. Each of the 16 MLT students participates in at least one exercise per year. Using 5 separate case study scenarios (i.e.: blood transfusion, pneumonia, asthma, stroke, and pancreatitis) supplied by the Evolve Elsevier system, along with a Laerdal 3G SimMan mannequin and a mock electronic medical record system, MLT students gain experience in the fundamental aspects of medical teamwork. MLT faculty presents a review session prior to the SIM experience, so that students have the opportunity to practice expected skills (i.e.: phlebotomy, calling results). The nursing faculty-facilitated videotaped SIM exercise requires each MLT and nursing student to review objectives, the case study, patient care plan, lab results, as well as answer a multiple-choice and short-answer questionnaire based on the handouts. Each MLT and nursing student spends at least 3 SIM hours and participates in a debriefing and evaluation of the learned concepts that occurred during the SIM exercise. The primary critical focus of the instructors is to encourage and instill professional communication skills and teamwork. Typical results from MLT and Nursing student surveys and faculty reports show the following results: the scenarios used during simulation were realistic and applicable to theory and nursing practice – 92% agree, 8% disagree or NA; simulation experiences helped me achieve course objectives – 81% agree, 19% disagree or NA; participation in simulation increased my level of clinical competence – 76% agree, 23% disagree or NA. MLT students have expressed that not only did they enjoy the experiences but also felt that it better prepared them for their clinical internships.