

IMPROVING THE STUDENT NURSES CLINICAL PLACEMENT ON AN ADULT RENAL WARD

C Richardson
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital

PROBLEM: It was highlighted by student nurses that training needs and learning outcomes specific to renal nursing were not identified when arriving on the renal ward.

PURPOSE: To maximise the potential learning opportunities available to student nurses within the workplace.

DESIGN: Following discussion with other members of nursing staff the role of Link Nurse for Students was established. The link nurse developed a student information package, which began with a general introduction to the ward. The main body of the document included a detailed list and description of specific renal nursing learning opportunities available to the student such as observing access surgery and renal biopsies.

The information package also includes an opportunity for the students to complete reflective diaries and critical incident analysis. Learning packs were also made available, allowing the students the opportunity to accurately complete nursing documentation. Each student is now allocated a trained assessor before arriving on the ward. They are also assigned a co-assessor who they work with when their assessor is off-duty.

FINDINGS: The use of placement evaluation forms has highlighted students positive comments on the learning opportunities made available to them, staff support and staff acknowledging their learning needs. The introduction of designated assessors and co-assessors has helped to improve continuity and aids evaluation as the student progresses through their placement.

CONCLUSION: Ensuring student nurses are exposed to relevant skills pertinent to renal nursing is seen as paramount. A designated link nurse and structured information package has been seen to facilitate this aim and improve the overall learning experience.

RELEVANCE: The introduction of the Link Nurse for Students, allocated assessors and the information package has improved the student experience and could be easily adopted by other renal in-patient wards.