Evaluation of a Virtual Simulation Scenario

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This paper evaluates the Sentinel U virtual simulation, featuring Evan Wright, a patient with Type 2 diabetes mellitus. The simulation is designed to help nursing students improve their clinical reasoning and decision-making skills in a safe, virtual setting. It integrates key components of nursing education, including physical assessment, pharmacology, and pathophysiology. The evaluation examines the simulation's content, structure, ease of use, and educational value.

Introduction

The selected simulation is the Sentinel U virtual case study that deals with Evan Wright, a 40-year-old male patient with Type 2 diabetes mellitus. This simulation takes place in a teaching environment within a nursing curriculum. It is used in nursing educational practice, where students can apply clinical reasoning and decision-making skills. The target audience will be nursing undergraduate and graduate students who will be prepared to work in a clinical environment. The simulation enables practicing patient cases within a virtual environment, allowing instruction to be conducted in a safe and risk-free setting.

The simulation fosters critical thinking in students across various areas, including physical assessment, pharmacology, and pathophysiology. Students review patient histories, summarize the information, interpret laboratory data, and develop a plan of care. They also learn how to identify social and health-related issues and assess care delivery. The case is an excellent example of how chronic diseases, such as diabetes, can affect an entire body system.

This simulation adheres to the constructivist learning theory, which emphasizes participation and learning through hands-on experiences. In this model, students develop knowledge by solving real-life situations (Do et al., 2023). The Evan Wright case puts learners

in a clinical scenario that is as realistic as it gets, one in which they must apply their knowledge to treat a complex patient. This practical education enhances memories, comprehension, and confidence. It also serves to make students relate theory and practice. By practicing in this safe and guided environment, students improve their skills before caring for real patients.

Physical assessment

The Evan Wright simulation includes physical assessment techniques through detailed questions, patient responses, and clinical findings. Students collect both subjective and objective data to understand the patient's condition. The scenario guides students through symptoms such as leg pain, tingling, swelling, and poor circulation. It also presents visual and verbal cues to help students recognize abnormal signs. These include cool skin, non-healing wounds, and signs of poor perfusion, which are typical in patients with diabetic complications. The simulation is accurate and realistic because it reflects what nurses often see in patients with unmanaged diabetes and vascular issues. The patient’s history, symptoms, and living situation are presented in a way that feels true to life. This helps them improve their ability to make clinical decisions based on assessment data.