



Back where it belongs

Incorporating infection control practices into patient care
simulations

What are the issues?

- Assumption
- All health authorities expect students enter the work place with the ability to safely implement infection control practices....
- Reality
- Educators are working with a stuffed curriculum and infection control is just one thing to do and it is introduced in theory and then coached in practice

Spirals of learning

- In the early terms, students learn about the chain of infection
- As they go through the terms more practice donning and doffing of isolation personal protective equipment is added and practiced
- The concepts are reinforced throughout the programs and in the clinical setting by faculty

Hurdles: What we all see

- Lack of understanding about contact precautions and universal precautions
- Lack of standardized posters in the health authorities
- Lack of communication with the educational institutions
- Inappropriate use of gloves

Remedy

- Simulated situations where students have to choose which of the various types of PPE are appropriate for the client in the bed

Simulated Case #1: History

- A 74 year old client is on a transitional care unit the admitting diagnosis is urosepsis with delirium associated with the sepsis, chronic wounds on shoulders, hips and elbows and there is osteomyelitis in the right elbow.
- Also: osteoporosis, hypertension, anemia, ischemic heart disease, osteoarthritis with joint replacement of left knee.

Simulated Case #1: Social History

- Lives alone
- Never married
- One sibling in Vancouver
- Enjoys music and taught piano for 40 years and worked as a clerk for 12 years

Simulated Case #1: Medication History

Home medications

- Digoxin
- Calcium carbonate
- Vitamin D₃
- Furosemide
- Hydrochlorothiazide
- Ferrous fumarate
- Vitamin B₁₂
- Atenolol
- Ramipril
- Acetaminophen

Hospital medications

- Hydromorphone
- Lactulose
- Methofloxacin
- Dalteparin
- Vancomycin

Simulated Case #1: What can go wrong?

- Administered Methofloxacin oral and developed C. Difficile was then started on Vancomycin
- Wound on the elbow shows MRSA (new finding)
- Noro type virus outbreak on the unit

Simulated Case #1: Student Requirement

- Students are required to administer medications and perform care for the client.
- Sign posted: GI and contact precautions