Annual Unit-Based Validation Using Simulation

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Nurses require ongoing education and validation of knowledge as new techniques and technologies are implemented. Simulation was added during annual validation day experiences for staff on a 14-bed Trauma Neuro Intensive Care Unit (TNICU).

Variables for Consideration
- RN Educational Backgrounds (Diploma, Associate, Baccalaureate, Master degree)
- RN Experience Range (< 1 year to > 35 years)

Validation Day Outline

Part 1: Simulation/Debriefing (45 minutes)
- Begins on even hour
- 4 to 5 RNs per time slot
  - Debriefing immediately following ICU/trauma case study simulation activity allows for discussion of assessment, actions and reactions to the scenario; including what went well, not so well, and what could have been done differently.

Part 2: Individual Skill Stations (1 hour)
- Validation on low volume/high risk skill competencies
- RN's circulate through skill stations at their own pace

Education Days (1995 - 2014)
- One to one mentoring
- Return demonstration
- Focus on safe equipment use
- Set date(s)/No set time

Validation Days (2014 - Present)
- Small team experience
- Interactive demonstration
- Focus on validation of knowledge/skills
- Set dates and times

Enhancing Traditional Teaching Strategies

Trauma case simulation station and TNICU specific hands-on skill demonstration stations including: ventriculostomy and monitoring set-ups, lumbar drains, subdural drains, Bispectral Index monitoring (BIS), fiber optic intracranial monitoring and rapid volume infusion equipment (Belmont rapid infuser), a code cart and a stroke poster with test questions.

Outcomes
- Teams work cohesively with all attention focused on the trauma patient in crisis. Utilizing advanced technology in a safe environment increases nurse confidence and improves clinical outcomes in critical situations.

Reference: