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Use of Interdisciplinary Bilingual Home Simulation to Facilitate Multicultural Learning for Kinesiology Students: Students' Perceptions

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Many educational programs include cultural competencies in their student learning objectives. Simulations are a targeted learning environment that allows students to assimilate knowledge and skills learned in their courses. A simulation that features a patient or client from a different culture who does not speak English provides students with a setting to practice cultural sensitivity and optimal healthcare delivery to a diverse patient population. **PURPOSE**: To determine students' perceptions of what they learned after participating in a simulation working with a patient who did not speak English. METHODS: Forty-five Nursing (n=20) and Kinesiology (n=25) students entered a Home Health Setting simulation in groups of five. The Nursing students acted as nurses and nursing aids while the Kinesiology students portrayed the roles of physical therapists, occupational therapists, and community health educators. The students worked together to assess the patient, demonstrate home exercise plans, and identify home health concerns specific to the scenario's culture and setting. The patient in the scenario only spoke and understood Spanish and patient's wife only understood limited English. After each simulation round, faculty and students debriefed to discuss the scenario. One week after the simulation, students completed a post-simulation survey. One qualitative question in the survey asked the students what they learned from the simulation. **RESULTS**: Nine (9) students responded to the post-survey for a response rate of 20%. Response themes included awareness, greetings, and researching cultures. Students' perceptions of what they learn included: "I'll now be aware of the perception of time and body language when working with patients from other cultures." "I will need to be aware of different aspects of different cultures in order to provide quality healthcare." "I will definitely greet the patient as well [even if I don't speak their language]." "Always be aware of the patient's beliefs." "Research the culture before meeting the patient in order to provide care." CONCLUSION: Providing a simulated learning experience with cultural components or patients who do not speak English provides Kinesiology and Health Science students an applied opportunity to practice cultural sensitivity competencies.