Preparing Nurse Practitioner Students to Deliver Bad News

Abstract: Faculty at Creighton University have identified that nurse practitioner students do not feel prepared nor have the knowledge to deliver bad news in an acute care setting. Students receive limited education regarding preparation and delivery of bad news, and thus, are not confident when the time comes to deliver bad news. This can lead to mistrust between the student/provider and the patient/family members.

As part of this study, students will receive education in the forms of a lecture and video, and then will participate in two simulated scenarios. The two scenarios will require the students to deliver bad news—whether it be regarding a death from a tragic accident, or that a patient has a terminal illness.

For evaluation, students will be asked to complete a survey that asks questions about their comfort, confident, and knowledge of delivering bad news. This same survey will be sent out to students at the end of the simulation scenarios, six months after the simulations, and one year after the simulations. The hypothesis of this study is that students will have increased confidence and comfort when needing to deliver bad news in an acute care setting.

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