



Introduction

Collaborative skills cannot solely be learned as a theoretical concept, but also by spending time working with other healthcare professionals. ^[1] Interprofessional collaboration has been identified as pivotal for building strong united healthcare teams, aiming for person centered care and patient safety. ^[2]

Commencing work in one's chosen career is exciting and daunting for the early entry practitioner. There are many challenges that one may face and these challenges are similar for both Registered Nurses and Medical Interns.

Orientation is an ideal time for early entry practitioners to unite at Ballarat Health Services (BHS). Enabling integration as new employees within a safe environment and delivery of the same information allows networks to develop, benefiting the organisation. Time is changing with an awareness of a culture in medicine and nursing of collegial respect, with a need for a change to organisational culture. ^[3] The Centre for Education and Training (CET) at BHS support the concepts and values of “Training Together to Work Together”

Orientation is a structured period of five days for nursing staff and four days for medical interns. During the four days that Registered Nurses and Medical Interns were together, efforts were made to align as many topics as possible. The emphasis surrounded a patient simulated journey; enabling critical thinking and building of skill sets. Within the patient simulated journey, volunteers were utilised, this making the clinical skill more “real” by incorporating the importance of communication.



Medical Interns and Registered Nurses undertaking spinal precautions

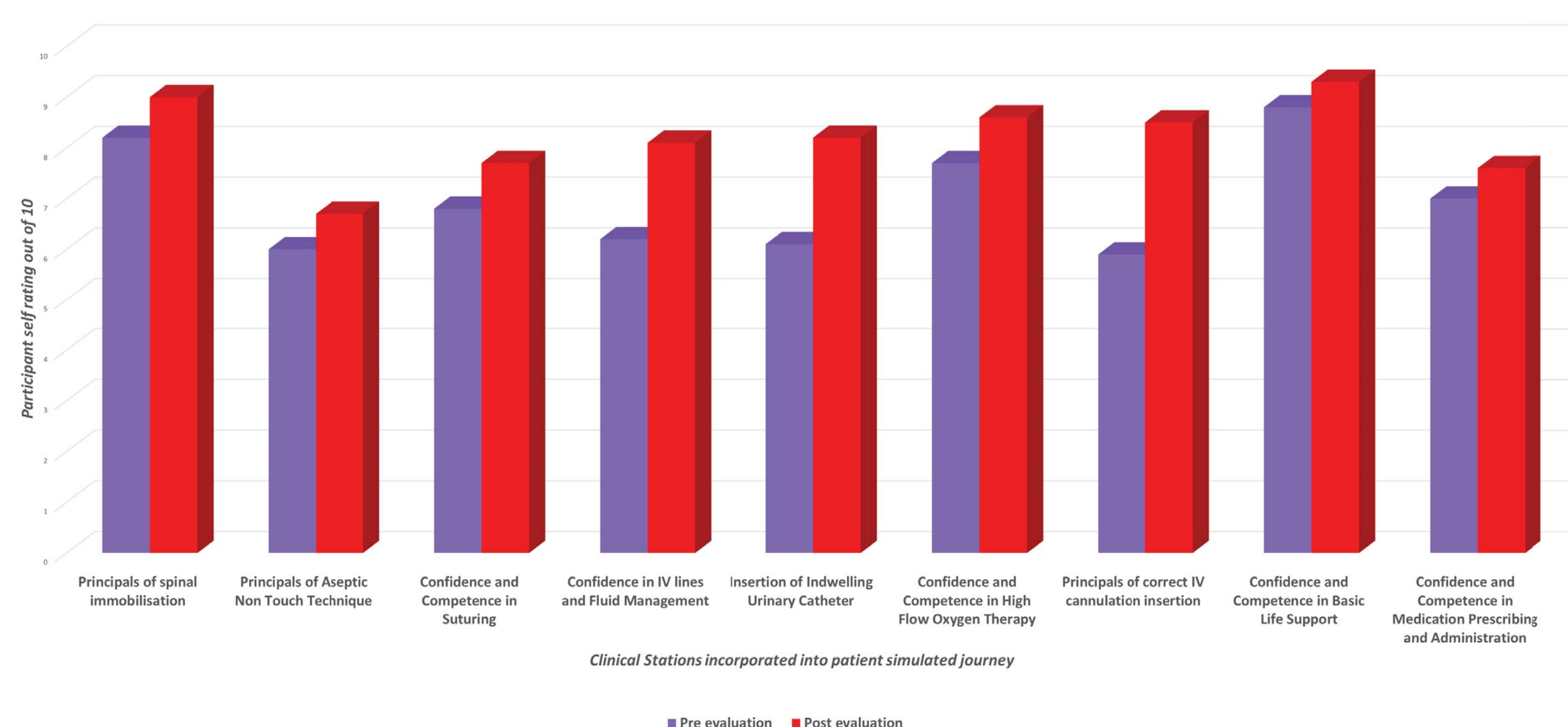


Visual representation of the importance of hand hygiene. A Medical Intern stated “it was the most beneficial way of recognising the importance of hand hygiene.”

Objectives

- Building of relationships between early entry Registered Nurses and Medical Interns
- Empowerment with knowledge and skills to feel confident and competent as early entry practitioners
- Building engagement to unite teams and networking across the organisation
- Reduction of financial costs related to the conduction of one joint patient simulated journey
- Uniformity and consistency of knowledge and skills across the cohorts of nursing and medicine
- Challenging silo's within medical and nursing faculties

Interprofessional Orientation Program - Pre and Post self evaluation 2018



Medical Interns and Registered Nurse; commencing their career.



Developing confidence and competence in the insertion of Indwelling Catheter's - Male and Female

Conclusion

The graph demonstrates pre and post self evaluation of skill sets for both the Registered Nurse and Medical Interns. For each clinical skill, the participant identified their own rating out of 10. It is clear that after engagement in the simulated patient journey, growth occurred by self determination. Overall rating of the Interprofessional orientation program achieved a 4.7 out of 5 from participants.

A sound appreciation of interprofessional collaboration has direct implications for healthcare and leadership. Simulation affords opportunities to increase knowledge, practice and develop skills whilst gaining experience in situations as an early entry practitioner. Building an appreciation of the knowledge that both nurses and doctors can bring to the caring of patients and how critical thinking is communicated is pivotal for patient safety; a lesson strengthened within an interprofessional, collaborative orientation program.

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3. Aspx Consulting. Ballarat Health Services, Clinical Services Plan 2017 – 2037.

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A Medical Intern and Registered Nurse undertaking the skills of PPE