SIMULATION TRAINING IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS USING AN ACADEMIC ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

Stephen C. Burrows
Sacred Heart University
burrowss@sacredheart.edu

ABSTRACT
Simulation training is a key component of training healthcare students. An Academic EHR is a simulation tool adapted from clinical systems with modifications for academic curricula. Simulation training provides students a non-threatening approach to technology that students will use once they begin their clinical careers.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe the importance of using simulation training in healthcare professions education
2. Identify the benefits of using an academic electronic health record in healthcare curricula
3. List the components of an Academic EHR and how they impact education in the healthcare professions
4. Describe how the Academic EHR is being used to prepare students for safe, efficient and effective clinical practice in the 21st century

Hypothesis: Cases that are simulated using an academic electronic health record (AEHR) will improve students’ learning outcomes through an interdisciplinary approach.

Methods: Simulated clinical cases were created in an AEHR in a problem based learning curriculum. These cases consisted of patients with various diagnoses, across health care settings, using clinical documentation from the interdisciplinary team. Students accessed cases by navigating through the AEHR and worked in groups to identify the learning issues found in the simulated patient case. An emphasis was placed on the interdisciplinary team.

Outcomes: Students were able recognize the importance of an inter-disciplinary approach. Students enhanced their learning through the use of simulated cases through an AEHR. The use of the simulated cases in AEHR exposed students to the value of technology and its impact in the health care setting.

Conclusion: The academic EHR exposed and enhanced students’ learning of electronic documentation and inter-disciplinary care. Future plans are underway to integrate students from multiple disciplines and programs across the College of Health Professions in collective learning teams using this same approach. This plan is in direct alignment with the United States federal government’s initiatives for adoption of electronic health records in the clinical setting.

Keywords: Electronic health records, healthcare curriculum, simulations