NATIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR SUMMIT

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The Impact of the Use of (ATI Product) on Unit Exam Scores and Attrition

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Category: ATI Best Practice Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this project was to increase students' scores on unit exams in a Med/Surg I course in sophomore year through the incorporation of (ATI Product) throughout the course. The rationale for this project was increased student attrition from this course over the past three years due to low exam scores.

Introduction: The evidence shows that the incorporation of a variety of active learning strategies in the classroom can result in deep learning and the student's ability to apply concepts to a variety of patient care scenarios. Learning by memorization has, conversely, resulted in limited ability to apply concepts over time and situations in patient care.

Methodology/Implementation: (ATI Product) was incorporated into a sophomore Med/Surg I course as a classroom group activity to correspond with similar topic areas in the course. Not all topic areas matched exactly, however the scenarios presented in (ATI Product) encouraged the students to apply similar concepts to different disease processes. Students worked in randomly-assigned groups throughout the semester to complete the (ATI product) scenarios during class time. Student groups then wrote a one-page synopsis of each experience using (ATI Product) and presented this synopsis to the rest of the class. Student groups learned from each other's successes and challenges when working with (ATI product). Course faculty debriefed the activity once all student groups had completed their presentations to the class. A class discussion on the purpose and benefit of completing this activity was led by the faculty, and salient points were highlighted.

Evaluation/Results: The activity using (ATI Product) throughout the semester was well received by the students. Course evaluations indicated that students considered this activity to be a valuable learning activity. Unit exam scores improved consistently throughout the semester, indicating that there could be an additive benefit of applying knowledge to (ATI Product) throughout the semester. Overall, aggregate scores on each unit exam improved by 10 percentage points. Attrition from the course was down by 50% over the aggregate attrition during the past three years. These data would indicate that the incorporation of (ATI Product) was one factor in improving student success in the course.

Conclusions/Recommendations: The incorporation of active learning opportunities in the classroom can serve to increase scores on unit exams and decrease course attrition. Active learning should be utilized throughout each class period to gain the maximum benefit of these strategies. A variety of strategies should be utilized with the anticipated outcome of students being able to apply knowledge to a variety of patient-care situations.

SAMPLE