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Camp Nursing As Clinical Placements For Undergraduate Nursing Students

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: Camp Nursing As Clinical Placements For Undergraduate Nursing Students:

BACKGROUND: Although traditional clinical placements (hospital or community) are providing direct practice experience for nursing students, BScN programs are experiencing a shortage of these placements (Council of Ontario Universities, 2013). Various types of camps with diverse populations of campers could provide rich exposure to pediatric patients with medical problems, behavioral disorders and learning challenges. Using summer camps as an alternative placement for nursing students could address the shortage of clinical placements and add diversity to the learning experience offered in the BScN program.

METHODOLOGY: A qualitative narrative design was used to explore how course level outcomes were achieved by fourth year level nursing students in the camp setting. Course level outcomes, which are based on nursing competencies, are developed by educational institutions to measure a nursing student's performance. Data collection was done by phone interviews. Six registered nurses who have nursing experience in a camp setting participated in this study. By sharing stories, participants provided examples to demonstrate how nursing students can meet level outcomes while in this type of placement. Through data analysis, these stories were organized into themes to help identify if the collective experiences meet competencies for nursing students.

RESULTS: Data analysis showed that nursing students can demonstrate: principals of patient safety, critical inquiry, preventative/promotional health, reflective practice and advocacy for health care services in the camp setting. These results support camp settings as a diverse, innovative clinical option for the undergraduate nursing experience.