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HAUNTED HOSPITAL SIMULATION: AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO IDENTIFY PATIENT ROOM SAFETY ISSUES

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Introduction & Background: Patient safety issues are of great concern and are key issues in preparation for National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and clinical practice. Simulation experiences are ideal for integrating safety issues and nursing teaching students to be aware of potential conditions that may cause harm to patients.

Aim & Objectives: To provide an innovative learning experience for nursing students focusing on NCLEX content related patient room safety issues through Halloween-themed simulations; and to promote interactive team learning with students in various levels of nursing education.

Methods: Five simulation scenarios of various patient types and safety situations were developed to allow students exploration of patient room safety issues. A Halloween theme that included decorates, music, treats, and gifts were carried throughout each simulation. A 25-item blank questionnaire directed students to identify five safety issues within each patient room and included three experiential questions to capture both qualitative and quantitative data.

Outcomes: Students identified six main themes in their experience: 1) look closely/be observant; 2) survey of the room/environment is as important as the patient survey; 3) checking patient identification; 4) medication safety; 5) dignity of patients; and 6) potential for anything to be hazardous.

Conclusions: The knowledge gained from the haunted hospital simulation provides evidence to drive the development of creative and innovative simulation strategies. In the future, the development of holiday-themed simulations can provide a fun atmosphere for students to utilize critical thinking skills and determine potential environmental safety issues

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