

Creating Confidence in the Chaos:

Enhancing Clinical Judgment, Communication, and Readiness Through Multi-Client Simulation

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PROBLEM & PURPOSE

Problem



- New graduate nurses often lack experience managing multiple clients simultaneously (Kavanagh & Szveda, 2017).
- Employers report deficits in clinical judgment, prioritization, delegation, and communication (Halfer & Benedetto, 2020).
- Traditional clinical experiences may not provide sufficient opportunities to develop these skills (Berhe & Gebretensaye, 2021).



Purpose

- To determine whether an unfolding multi-client simulation improves clinical judgement, SBAR communication, and confidence among Practical Nursing Certificate students.

AVAILABLE KNOWLEDGE & RATIONALE



CLINICAL JUDGEMENT

Simulation improves clinical judgment and decision-making (Azizi et al., 2022; Combs, 2021).



COMMUNICATION

Simulation strengthens SBAR communication and teamwork. (Combs, 2021)



CONFIDENCE

Simulation increases student confidence and readiness for practice. (Svellingen et al., 2020)

Rationale



Multi-client simulation provides a realistic and safe environment to practice prioritization, delegation, communication, and clinical decision-making before entering practice.

Guided by the NLN Jeffries Simulation Theory (Jeffries, 2015)

METHODS



CONTEXT

- Private Midwestern College
- Final-semester PNC students
- N = 25

Intervention: Unfolding Multi-Client Simulation



Measures

LCJR

Lasater Clinical Judgement Rubric (Lasater, 2007)

SBAR Checklist

4-item (0-2 pts each) (IHI, 2023)

Confidence Survey

10-item Likert Scale

DATA ANALYSIS



Descriptive Statistics (Mean, SD)



Paired Samples t-test



Microsoft Excel

RESULTS

Clinical Judgement (LCJR)

Domain	Mean (0-3)	Level
Noticing	2.33	Developing → Accomplished
Interpreting	2.31	Developing → Accomplished
Responding	2.54	Accomplished
Reflecting	2.58	Accomplished

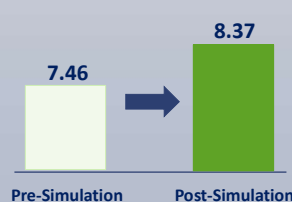
Overall Mean: 2.44 out of 3
LCJR Range 0-3 per domain
(Higher # = Stronger Clinical Judgment)

SBAR Communication Checklist (0-2 points each)

Situation	Background	Assessment	Recommendation
1.72	1.92	1.76	1.84

Overall Mean: 1.81 out of 2
SBAR Range 0-2 per item
(Higher # = Stronger Communication)

Student Confidence (10-Point Likert Scale)



Significant Increase
 $t(24) = -3.02$ $p = .006$

Student Perception:
Prepared for Real-World-Practice
(Post-Simulation Only)
9.24/10

DISCUSSION

Key Findings



- Clinical judgement improved across all LCJR domains
- Students demonstrated strong SBAR communication
- Confidence increased following simulation
- Students perceived the simulation as an effective strategy for preparing them for real-world nursing practice

Why it Worked



- Authentic multi-client scenarios mirrored clinical practice
- Rotating nursing roles strengthened prioritization and delegation
- Structured debriefing reinforced reflection and learning
- Safe simulation environment increased confidence before practice

Strengths



- Realistic simulation experience
- Standardized evaluation using LCJR and SBAR
- Integrated into an existing clinical course
- Minimal cost using existing faculty and resources

Limitations



- Single institution with a small sample and no comparison group
- Immediate post-simulation outcomes only
- Faculty familiarity with students may have influenced evaluations, and student familiarity with faculty may have influenced survey responses.

CONCLUSION

Multi-client simulation is an effective strategy to enhance practical nursing student's clinical judgement, communication, and confidence – preparing them for the complexity of real-world practice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The author gratefully acknowledges Dr. Alice Kindschuh for her guidance and mentorship throughout this doctoral scholarly project. Special thanks to the Nebraska Methodist College faculty, the College of Saint Mary simulation faculty, and the Practical Nursing Certificate students whose participation made this project possible.

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