



USING PROFESSIONAL ACTORS IN SIMULATION TEACHING OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Zvoníček Václav, Kalná Svatava

Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University

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The knowledge of theoretical classes of communication skills of hospital staff is difficult to apply. The practical training lessons with standardized patients offer a better method of teaching. The use of actors as standardized patients for practical training further improves the efficacy of training. The goal of our project was to develop a methodology for creating scenarios with standardized patients (SP) and to use this methodology for development of nursing communication courses.

To develop the methodology we had to solve the following questions: who will write scenarios, how detailed should be the script and who will lead the simulation. The scenario contained written description illness, condition of disability of simulated patient, situation and task to be carried out by a trainee and guidelines for communication with this type of patient. Additional information as typical patient behaviour were given only to standardized patients. Rehearsal with SP was led by psychologists and experts. Scenario was repeatedly modified based on the analysis of audio visual records. Scenarios were developed by psychologists, nursing experts and physicians; the final scripts were written by psychologists. The semi-structured scenarios suited professional actors the best. It provided only a framework of the session and allows improvisation by the actor. We found out that maximally 8 students should be trained in one block. A psychologist leads the simulation as a trainer, he or she gives instructions to the SP (via hands-free audio link) and also leads the debriefing.

We have developed a methodology for creating scenarios, this methodology takes advantage of employing professional actors who have sufficient experience to perform with a high degree of fidelity. Rehearsals with actors prior to the simulation training and discussion with nursing experts help to improve the authenticity of simulation. The simulation training of communication skills was developed and offered to 83 nursing schools. 83% of students who participated in project believed that simulation training should be an integral part of curriculum at nursing schools, 93% reevaluated their approach to communication with patients and 85% want to attend simulation training in the future.

We introduced into nursing education of Czech Republic the use of professional actors in simulation teaching of communication skills. The 32 courses of communication skills for 47 students and 10 blocks of training for nursing school teachers were performed in 2013.