



Are Institutions Educating Baccalaureate Students to Feel Comfortable Speaking Up for Patient Safety?



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Objectives

1. Explain speaking up and its role in nursing
2. Discuss how education focused specifically on speaking up is of benefit
3. Summarize speaking-up education in the undergraduate nursing setting

1. Speaking Up and Its Role in Nursing

- Speaking up is recognized as a duty that nurses have that can prevent failures in patient safety and avoid the occurrence of adverse events.
- Research has shown that nurses face multiple barriers when deciding whether or not to speak up. (3)

Literature Review

- Three articles were identified that served to answer the research question.
- Research Question: What are nursing programs doing to prepare baccalaureate students to speak up for patient safety?

2. The Benefit of Education Focused on Speaking Up

- While teamwork and communication have been highly emphasized in the healthcare setting to improve safety, it is important to note that one study in the aviation profession found an overemphasis on teamwork can actually serve as another barrier by discouraging individuals from speaking up. (1)
- Okuyama et al. (2014) found when education was specifically focused on speaking up, it proved to be an effective way to influence behaviors of participants. (5)

Speak up for patient safety



Retrieved from:

<https://felicityjordanauthor.wordpress.com/2014/02/21/my-first-real-post>

Thank you to the Lambda Eta Chapter of Sigma,
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3. Examples of Education in the Undergraduate Setting

- Senior-level nursing course that focuses on teaching “students common phrases they can use to voice their concerns”. Instrument indicated students were more comfortable approaching others after the course. (4)
- Elements of Crucial Conversations® used with undergraduate healthcare students to teach “acquisition of skills needed to engage in conversations where stakes are high, emotions are strong and opinions vary”. (2)
- Emergency simulation scenarios used to enhance skills including communication. Focus group sub-theme emerged when “students stressed the importance of speaking up to ensure safe patient practices”. (7)

Conclusion

- Education focused on speaking up can improve participants comfort while a focus on teamwork can negatively influence willingness to speak up.
- We propose future research be focused on gathering data to determine whether nursing programs are actively teaching their students how to speak up, and how this is being done.