

# Curriculum Innovations to Support Population Health Management by RNs

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## Learning Objective:

Describe methods of integrating care management and population health into baccalaureate nursing curricula

### Abstract

The significant need for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners is well documented; however, there is an even greater need for RNs to staff mental health facilities. Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (PMHN) has turned to simulation to enhance students' skills and knowledge. The use of standardized patients (SPs) in PMHN simulations offers the opportunity to: assess patients' mental status; assess and ensure safety as appropriate, and most importantly, practicing therapeutic communication. In this descriptive analysis, the experiences of two cohorts of students, moving through their third level in PMHN/BSN program, are described. Survey results indicated an increased sense of competency and comfort in interacting with mentally ill clients after participating in two SP-based simulations. While there is a great focus nationally on the utility and need for PMH nurse practitioners, the need for RNs to staff PMH facilities is also evident, as the recruitment and retention of RNs in the PMH facilities is increasingly challenging. Simulation with SPs significantly decreases students' anxiety and increases their confidence in their ability to interact with clients, thus making them more likely to choose a career in psychiatric health seating. Recommendations include: 1) Developing improved processes for preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating students' simulation experience; 2) grounding simulation in identified best practices, e.g., International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INASCL) and the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE); and 3) evaluating students' perceptions of SPs-based simulation.

### Biography

Dr. Lovasz has been teaching Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing since 2005. He was the lead faculty and course coordinator (Associate Professor) at Gulf Coast Community College and Charleston Southern University. He was also an Associate Professor and Course Coordinator for Capstone courses at Galen College of Nursing. Dr. Lovasz has been part of the University of the Incarnate Word for almost 5 years. He is currently teaching Psychiatric Mental Health and is the lead faculty member for NURS 4431 PMHN. Daniel is also a Major and Head Nurse in US Army reserves.

Michael Van Doren has varied clinical and management experiences in PMHN, focusing on addictions. Mr. Van Doren obtained his BSN and MSN from the University of Virginia. Mr. Van Doren was nurse coordinator for several diverse organizations: WIC; an adult, in-patient behavioral health unit; a primary addictions program for professionals/executives, and for IDD individuals in the community. He served on an NCSBN committee on SUD in nursing, culminating in a published manual, and has written numerous articles for state and national publications. He currently teaches in Psychiatric and Community Health Nursing courses at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.

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## ONE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM'S EXPERIENCE USING STANDARDIZED PATIENTS IN PSYCHIATRIC SIMULATION

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### ABSTRACT

There is a great need for RNs to staff mental health facilities. Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (PMHN) has turned to simulation to enhance students' skills and knowledge. The use of standardized patients (SPs) in PMHN simulations offers the opportunity to: assess patients' mental status; assess and ensure safety as appropriate, and most importantly, practicing therapeutic communication. In this descriptive analysis, the experiences of two cohorts of students, moving through their third level in PMHN/BSN program, are described. Survey results indicated an increased sense of competency and comfort in interacting with mentally ill clients. Simulation with SPs significantly decreases students' anxiety and increases their confidence in their ability to interact with clients, thus making them more likely to choose a career in psychiatric mental health seating. Recommendations include: 1) Developing improved processes for preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating students' simulation experience; 2) grounding simulation in identified best practices, e.g., International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INASCL) and the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE); and 3) evaluating students' perceptions of SPs-based simulation.

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### INTRODUCTION

The use of simulation in psychiatric mental health nursing is a venue of increasing students' ability to interact with mentally ill clients in a therapeutic and professional manner. The use of standardized patients to facilitate PMH simulation along with debriefing for meaningful learning approach further enhances students' therapeutic communication and assessment skills. The current study aims on testing if PMH simulation with standardized patients will increase the probability of these students choosing a career in psychiatric nursing.

### DISCUSSION

Nursing shortage is a well-documented national problem; however, the issues has reached the point of a crisis in the psychiatric mental health setting (Jansen & Venter, 2015). The levels of turnover, retention, and difficulty in recruiting nurses for psychiatric care is affecting the quality of patient care. Becoming a psychiatric nurse is not a popular choice between nursing students. Nursing programs need to find solutions for increasing the number of students selecting PMHN as a career.

### METHODS

The current descriptive research will focus on analyzing students' perceptions of simulation experience involving the use of standardized patients. A statistical analysis of data collected with Likert-type surveys will be performed by using t-test/Student's t test static. The surveys are anonymous and Blackboard-based.

### RESULTS

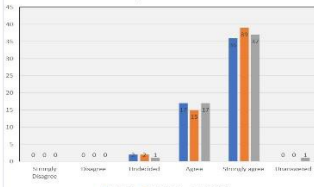
The use of standardized patient(s) was appropriate (n 58).



I am confident that I am developing the skills and obtaining the required knowledge from this simulation to perform necessary tasks in a clinical setting (n 58).



Students' Perception of SP Use in Simulation



### CONCLUSIONS

Various factors determine nursing students' choice for a career in nursing and many of these factors are deterring them for entering mental health arena. Issues such as discomfort in working with psychotic patients, fear associated with personal safety, along with lack of knowledge regarding PMH nurse job description are increasing students' reluctance of choosing mental health care (Holmberg, Caro, & Sobis, 2018). Nursing programs need to find effective implementations, such as simulation with standardized patients, to increase the number of students entering psychiatric mental health arena.

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