Introduction
Documenting patient care is a basic competency for registered nurses. As health care facilities adopt electronic medical records (EMR), training staff on the new technology challenges professional development educators. Nursing professional development educators at Cincinnati Children’s use a blended learning approach during central nursing orientation to train staff in use of the EMR.

What is Blended Learning?
A learning strategy that combines multiple teaching methods and delivery systems to reinforce learning and meet learning styles of staff from diverse clinical areas. Typically consists of:
- Electronic learning modules
- Instructor – led training
- Printed materials
- Simulation of clinical skills
- Workplace assignments with preceptor

Aim
To describe how a blended learning approach was used to educate nurses on electronic medical record documentation practices as part of central RN orientation

Teaching Methods
- Interactive electronic learning modules specific to the clinical setting
- Classroom instruction by a software trainer in a computer lab with sample EMR screens for virtual patients
- Simulation of barcode scanning medications
- Evaluation of learning through application in an online EMR test at the end of classroom instruction
- Integration of EMR by professional nursing development educators during simulation with virtual patient scenarios
- Practice in EMR playground using virtual patient scenarios with check by Information Services software trainer for each orientee on use of patient plan of care and teaching plan
- Discussion and reinforcement of documentation in the EMR for the virtual scenario patient during orientee group presentations
- Discussion of related EMR documentation during skills instruction and simulation activities
- Use of job aids as reference for just-in-time review

Content
EMR Topics Using Blended Learning
Navigating basic documentation screens used in clinical settings by nurses:
- Admission history
- Patient Plan of Care
- Patient Education Record
- Medication Administration Record with Barcoding
- Clinical documentation of assessments, vital signs, intake and output, airways, intravenous lines, and procedures
- Patient discharge

Results
Evaluations of the blended learning approach to EMR instruction show that orientees are able to apply knowledge of documentation training through electronic testing and demonstration with simulated scenarios. Orientees also express increased understanding of EMR documentation on pre and post-self-assessments.

Conclusion
A blended learning approach to educating pediatric nurses on electronic medical record documentation has yielded positive results for staff learning and improving patient safety.

Setting and Resources
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center located in Cincinnati, Ohio
- 600 bed pediatric research and teaching hospital
- Ranked in top three pediatric hospitals for 2013 by US News and World Report
- Central staff development team of eight education consultants with one education consultant facilitator for central RN orientation
- Unit based nursing education specialists for each clinical area
- Information Services team for assistance with computer needs and training

References

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