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A Clinical Audit on Soft Skill Elements in Structured Nursing Clinical Skill Assessment on Medication Procedure

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Abstract

Introduction: Soft skills are the fundamental principles that define the nursing profession and provide excellent nursing care. Indeed, current structured nursing clinical skill assessments on medication administration procedures place an excessive emphasis on dexterity and frequently fail to assess soft skill elements. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the soft skill elements in objectively structured clinical skill assessments of medication procedures in the undergraduate nursing programme. **Materials and method:** A clinical audit was performed on the retrospective structured clinical skill assessment exam questions using the clinical skill assessment index I (CSAI-I) instrument. A total of 40 medication procedures exam questions were gathered from seven higher education institutions in Malaysia that offered undergraduate nursing programmes.

The data was analysed descriptively. Result: Among the 40 medication procedures audited, 14 (35% of them) were for oral medication, 9 (22.5%) for eye and ear medication, and the rest fell into other categories. Surprisingly, the 40 medication procedure checklists included soft skill elements such as communication skills 38 (95%), teamwork skills 40 (100%), social skills and responsibilities 3 (7.5%), critical thinking skills 1 (2.5%), professional and ethical decision-making skills 1 (2.5%), numeracy skill 1 (2.5%), and interpersonal skill 3 (7.5%). Conclusion: Many aspects of the current structured nursing clinical skill assessment on medication procedures can be improved, including the type of medication and the components of the soft skill elements, among others. Thus, a well-structured clinical skill assessment is essential for producing holistic graduate nurses. © 2025 Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

medication procedure; nursing; soft skills; Structured clinical skill assessment; undergraduate nursing programme

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