

Virtual home visit for a child with a medical complexity

Debriefing questions

1. How does this assignment relate to the course material?

I believe this assignment relates to this course in multiple ways. As future healthcare workers, we are going to work with patients with a variety of issues no matter which department we choose to work in. I don't plan on working in pediatrics, but if I work in a surgery department, I may see a child with medical complexity in the operating room one day and need to be knowledgeable to plan for their care. If I choose to work in home health care, I could potentially visit a home of a child with medical complexity and will be able to help the patient as well as educate their parents during my visits.

2. Name three ways this activity affects nursing practice when caring for the special needs pediatric population.

This activity was a great resource when learning how to care for the special needs pediatric population. Clinical sites will impact pediatric health in many ways. This virtual visit was great to learn about the process that occurs once a special needs patient leaves the hospital. As healthcare providers, we need to know what happens when our patient goes home in terms of their care and medication administration so we are able to educate them or answer any questions they may have. Once our patient leaves the hospital or clinic, their care does not stop. We also need to be able to help family members cope or seek counseling if needed when they are struggling to deal with a diagnosis or learn how to administer medication once they arrive at home. This video was great in showing how a home needs to be prepared before the patient even arrives at home and what needs to be done to accommodate their care.

3. What are 2 potential health risks for a child that requires a tracheostomy or enteral feedings via G-tube? Provide a brief description of these health risks, including nursing management and caregiver education.

Complications of tracheotomy can be defined as major, including accidental decannulation, bleeding, tracheotomy tube occlusion, and even death. Complications can even be as minor as encompassing wound breakdown and formation of granulation tissue. A child can be sent home with their caregiver after they have been educated on caring for the child. Extra care and supervision are required for a child with a tracheostomy. A specialist team will help teach the caregivers the different procedures they will need to do when caring for the child after they return home. This may include suctioning, planned replacement, emergency replacement and flushing

4. Choose one of the health risks identified in the above question and develop a plan of care to address this. Include a nursing diagnosis, a measurable goal, and at least 3 nursing interventions to achieve this goal.
 - a. Nursing diagnosis: Tracheostomy tube occlusion
 - b. Measurable goal: Clear occlusion and maintain airway patency
 - c. Nursing intervention: Assess airway, optimize oxygenation
 - d. Nursing intervention: Suction catheter to ensure that the tube is patent, and that the tracheostomy tube is not in the pretracheal space
 - e. Nursing intervention: Remove the tracheostomy tube and replace

5. How will the knowledge gained during this simulation impact your nursing practice?

The knowledge I gained during this simulation will impact the way I conduct my nursing practice in a variety of ways. Before this simulation, I wasn't quite sure how to treat a patient with medical complexity. After taking the pretest and posttest during the simulation, I truly believe I have enough basic knowledge to help a patient with medical complexity. I now know what risk factors to look for and how to prevent the patients' condition from worsening. I believe I know enough to educate the patients' parents or caregivers on how to handle their plan of care. Before this simulation, the thought of working with a patient who has a medical complexity made me uneasy, but this simulation was a great resource. I have previously considered working in home health care after graduation, and I think I am being provided with knowledgeable information that could help me be a successful home health nurse that I could help provide the future families I work for with the education they will need to care for their loved ones.

References:

Capriotti, T., & Frizzell, J.P. (2016). Pathophysiology: introductory concepts and clinical perspectives (1st ed.). F.A. Davis Company.