

Virtual Home Visit for a Child with Medical Complexity

Debriefing Questions

1. How does this virtual simulation relate to the course?

This virtual simulation relates to this course because it discusses the care of children with special needs and considerations associated with the child, their family, and environment. Some of the many challenges of caring for a child with special needs are making sure the home is accessible and safe, medication safety, things to consider when the child is discharged home, and knowing what equipment is needed and how to use it properly. This course's design is to make sure student nurses are knowledgeable in the previously listed aspects and can provide safe and appropriate care for them and their families.

2. Name three ways this clinical site impacts Pediatric health.

Nurses and other members of a child's healthcare team must understand the home life for a child with medical complexities. The environment is one crucial factor; some children's families can build or modify a house for the special needs of the child while others are not. Another way this impacts pediatric health is who is the primary caretaker for the child, is it the parent, or are they able to have assistance from a home nurse. The last way this impacts pediatric health is related to the development and social aspects of special needs children, their families, and the community.

3. What are the health risks of the population served during today's simulation based on your observations today?

Children with medical complexity have a variety of health risks, and they mustn't be overlooked when providing care to the child. Some of the dangers include medications and the risks for administering them the wrong route, wrong dose, or polypharmacy concerns. Another risk is safety and accessibility around the home; the home needs an easy way to enter and exit for the child, such as a ramp, also having space and power for the equipment necessary for the care and having backup power sources for essential equipment. The risks associated with discharging a child home include new medications and their availability, needing a piece of new piece equipment, and the training to go with it and working with insurance companies. Another risk discussed is complications using the BiPap machine, which would cause ineffective breathing and reduced oxygenation.

4. Choose one of the health risks identified in question 3 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.

Nursing Diagnosis: Ineffective breathing pattern related to Restrictive lung disease and use of a BiPap machine

Measurable goal: Client's SaO₂ remains at or above 92%

Nursing Interventions: Keep the head of the bed at no less than 30 degrees. Check the fit of the BiPap mask and make adjustments, also use a barrier cream to improve the seal. Use suction to clear the mouth and have the client remain NPO to reduce the risk of aspiration.

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

The virtual home visit benefits nursing students who may come across clients with special needs, especially those who are children. Many considerations must be taken into account when caring for someone with medical complexities, and this module helps to bring them to light and provide awareness. It is beneficial to see the family accomplishing tasks and the organizational planning behind the scenes of delivering care. For future clients the videos offer helpful suggestions to make difficult tasks easier, such as ways to make the mask on the BiPap fit better and how to organize the many medications in a simplified way.