

TEACHING TIPS

Adding Diversity to Simulations for Prelicensure Students in a Nursing Program

Students need learning experiences that are of a diverse nature and expose them to diverse populations. Providing these experiences can be challenging in simulation due to limitations of physical manikin features. However, with creative thinking, diversity can be added. The authors did so in the maternity course by using both props and client stories. In a preeclampsia simulation, the manikin was made to appear like an adolescent by braiding her hair, putting a scrunchy (fabric covered hair tie) on her wrist, and placing a trendy necklace on her. These additions served as visual reminders to students to consider this client's age when interacting with her. In another simulation, students began caring for a laboring client whose support person was absent. In the past, students asked where the father of the baby was, prompting the client to share that her wife was deployed and trying to return in time for the delivery. This allows students to reflect on their language and assumptions in a safe setting. Faculty altered an existing postpartum hemorrhage simulation to include a client who follows the Jehovah's Witness religion. This situation helps students navigate a difficult and necessary conversation that promotes clinical judgment. Lastly, faculty developed a high-risk newborn simulation with a 38-year-old mother who has another child at home. Students consider how to effectively communicate with and offer support to the mother who does not understand what is going on as her first child was not ill.

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