

## One best practice: Dedicated Education Units to maximize student clinical engagement

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### INTRODUCTION/REVIEW OF LIT

- The Dedicated Education unit (DEU) was developed by the Flinders University of South Australia School of Nursing
- The DEU is the result of forming academic-clinical partnerships to explore innovation in nursing education
- Implementation of a DEU was a departure from the clinical teaching model utilized at a private, non-profit school in the southern USA for an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing program by collaborating across disciplines to maximize student clinical engagement
- The initial DEU was implemented during the 2016 spring semester and this nursing educational strategy grew from one to six clinical units at multiple facilities
- Nursing administration embraced the DEU resulting in fourteen new nurse graduate hires making transition into practice easier
- The DEU teaching model facilitates clinical learning where a registered nurse serves as a clinical coach and is paired with a student
- A DEU is designed to improve practice education to better prepare students for actual practice as students learn how to provide professional, competent, and safe nursing care while performing clinical skills, and learning the complex decision-making processes of a typical day as a nurse

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Registered nurse, who volunteers to serve as a clinical coach has at least one year experience and preferably bachelors prepared
- Clinical coach assumes primary role of teaching where student ratio is 1:1; however, the entire unit is dedicated to student learning
- Clinical coaches participate in DEU orientation related to academic objectives and desired outcomes
- A university folder is provided for each clinical coach/nurse manager and includes faculty member business card, topics related to the DEU, and well defined roles for students, clinical coaches, and faculty
- Nurse manager oversees the operations of the unit while the DEU provides a supportive, confidence-building environment for student learning
- Faculty member visits the DEU each shift to collaborate with the clinical coaches and nursing students, grade student clinical paperwork, and perform final student evaluation
- Nursing students work 12-hour day and night shifts, including weekends

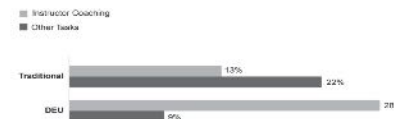


### PARTNERSHIPS

- The DEU model improves the undergraduate student learning experience by enhancing the clinical learning environment while establishing partnerships between clinicians, academics, and students
- Partnership is between the bedside nurse, who has knowledge of current medications, latest clinical procedures, regulations, policies, and the faculty members who are experts in education

### CONCLUSION

- Clinical education is higher in DEUs compared with traditional settings
- The DEU model optimizes student learning by enhancing the clinical learning environment through a more hands-on approach to patient care
- A DEU provides an environment where academics and the care delivery system intersect providing an intense practice-grounded experience in the clinical setting
- Sustainability through collaboration and the development of partnerships between clinicians, academics, and students



DEU Students Spend More Time in Clinical Instruction  
Time spent on instruction (28%) compared to other activities by group. (n=803), with remaining time spent same by the two groups in patient care/management of care activities.

### CURRENT CLINICAL SITES

#### Comprehensive Stroke Center

- Cardiac

#### Large Metropolitan Medical Center

- Ortho/Trauma
- Progressive Care Unit
- Neuro/Stroke
- Medical/Surgical
- Oncology

#### Fall 2018

#### Comprehensive Stroke Center

- Neuro/Spine

#### Spring 2019

#### Premier Top 100 Heart Hospital

- Medical/Surgical/Oncology

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