

Team Decision Making

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Scenario Overview

Simulated Patient

Overview

Target Audience: Students undertaking Masters or Doctoral coursework degrees in Nursing science, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Speech pathology and Medicine at The University of Melbourne

Number of Participants: up to 30 participants, divided into 5 groups

Estimated time in simulation: 60 minutes

Setting: general medical ward at an outer metropolitan hospital.

Brief summary of scenario

In this scenario, students from nursing, speech pathology, social work, medicine and physiotherapy will come together to make difficult decisions about discharge. The setting is a general medical ward in an acute outer metropolitan public hospital. The hospital is currently at capacity with a large number of patients in the Emergency Department as well as several elective admissions without bed allocations. This means that the hospital needs to discharge patients no longer requiring a stay in hospital. Not doing so could jeopardise the health of other patients as well as lead to Government penalties being placed on the hospital.

This scenario involves the students holding a meeting to discuss 5 patients who have potential to be discharged from hospital today. In order to aid their discussion, the students will need to meet, interview and assess the patients first. Your role is to be one of the patients. All 5 patients will be in one large room on the same ward. Students will work in groups of approximately 6 and spend 10 minutes with each patient. Each group will rotate around the ward until all 5 patients have been visited; therefore you will be seen by 5 groups of students. Each group will comprise students from the same course i.e. there will be one group of doctors, one group of nurses etc.. It is expected that each group will have different areas of focus and approach you in a different way.

All 5 patients are keen to be discharged from hospital; however their medical histories are complex and for all patients there are some barriers to a smooth discharge home (as described in the Character Brief). It is the students' role to find out more about these barriers and think of ways of overcoming them. Their interviews with you may focus on topics related to discharge.

Patients on the ward may interact with each other. In fact, some patients have been specifically instructed to do this. The ward is expected to be a busy place with lots of interactions and happenings going on.

This project was possible due to funding made available by Health Workforce Australia

Each group's visit will be timed – after 10 minutes the group will be instructed to move on to the next patient. Please remain in character throughout the scenario, including the changeovers.

Patient summaries

Below is a brief summary of each patient on the ward. The patients have gotten to know each other from sharing a room with each other. Being in such close proximity to each other has limited privacy. Please take note of the other characters in the room and include some of this information in your discussions with the students e.g. complaining about other people in the room.

Bed 1: Ana Galanis. Ana has been in hospital for 3 weeks after falling and suffering a brain injury. Ana has a large Greek family who visit often. Ana walks like she is drunk and is quite unpredictable. She has made a habit of taking food from other patient's tables.

Bed 2: Karina Wescott. Karina is a quiet person who keeps to herself. She has only been on the ward for 2 days. She coughs a lot, but other than that is not really noticed.

Bed 3: Brenton Barker. Brent is a strange fellow who has been on the ward for 3 days. He doesn't talk much and looks quite anxious. Brent is constantly on the hunt for cigarettes and has asked everyone in the room for one.

Bed 4: Jack Lazar. Jack has emphysema and has been in the hospital for 5 days. He is a pleasant person, but snores loudly overnight. Jack developed emphysema from smoking – he does not agree with Brent's interest in smoking.

Bed 5: Edith Lipski is an elderly lady from a nursing home who came in last night. Edith spent most of the night yelling out for her daughter Annabelle. Edith made it difficult for anyone to get any sleep last night.

Setting

The setting is a large room in a hospital ward. You will be dressed like a hospital patient i.e. you will wear a hospital gown. You will either be in bed or sitting in a chair. Please bring along some clothing/underwear that would be appropriate to wear under the gown. Please note that up to 30 students, 5 simulated patients and a number of staff will be in the room with you.

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