Learning Associated with Visits for STD Testing
Health Services
Division of Student Affairs
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Assessment Summary

Description

The HS staff assessed individual student/patient learning associated with visits with a nurse for STD testing. This assessment allows the nursing staff to identify areas of knowledge deficit and provide guidance/information where needed.

Patient confidentiality is imperative to the Health Services mission. In this assessment report no individual patients/students are identified.

Health Services offers this new strategy in the Student Affairs Strategic Plan for 2012-2013

Assessment Method

Health Services developed and implemented a rubric for assessing knowledge and learning related to STDs. During the patient’s visit(s) for STD testing, the nursing staff used the rubric to assess the patient’s knowledge and behavior, related to risk for exposure to STDs.

Results

144 patients received testing for STDs in 2013-14. 53 of these visits were with the physician. The rubric was not used during physician visits because of time constraints. 91 patients saw a nurse for STD testing. Learning and knowledge was assessed using the rubric in 24% (22) of nursing visits for STD testing, 64% (14) men and 36% (8) women. Not every dimension in the rubric was assessed for each patient, depending on individual need.

Departmental goals for this strategy were met. Although nursing staff recorded knowledge level using the rubric for only about ¼ of the patients seeking STD testing they still provided information and counseling about safe sexual activity at the time of their visit using the checklist on the testing form.

- Provide individual counseling regarding specific illness and health behaviors.
- Perform assessment of student learning outcomes and satisfaction.

We successfully addressed the program goals for this strategy by utilizing the rubric to evaluate knowledge and provide information in areas of knowledge deficit.

- Instruct students in assessing their risk for exposure to STDs.
- Guide students in identifying and establishing behaviors to minimize exposure to STDs.

The strategy was designed to promote two CAS LDOs

- A-3 Constructing knowledge.
  - 64% met expectations for describing when to use a condom (14 of 22)
  - 72% met expectations for knowing how to apply a condom (13 of 18)
  - 56% met expectations for identifying limitations and failure rate of condoms. (10 of 18)

- A-4 Relating knowledge to daily life
  - 68% of students met expectations for identifying personal risk factors (15 of 22)
  - 59% of students were able to describe strategies to reduce risk. (13 of 22)
  - 72% of students met expectations for identifying how often they should be tested (13 of 18)

To request a copy of the assessment instrument and/or complete tabulated results, email DAT@trinity.edu.

Discussion
The biggest investment for this initiative was time. About 30 minutes with the patient was necessary for discussion and assessment. However, this allowed the nursing staff to better appreciate the students' knowledge or knowledge deficit and provide supplemental information.

Last year results showed that a very low percentage, 28%, of students appropriately described when they should use a condom for protection from STDs. It was our intention to focus on this in 2013-14. One change that we made late last year was to provide flavored condoms and dental dams in addition to the standard condoms. This year 68% of students assessed were able to describe when to use a condom, a significant improvement.

The number of formal assessments that occurred were significantly less than last year. I think this occurred because of a student concern that the staff asked questions that were too personal. In response the staff was reluctant to use the rubric.

This assessment tool has improved the HS staff’s ability to assess behavior and knowledge and to provide more individualized counseling regarding sexual health topics. However, because of comments/complaints made by a student regarding dissatisfaction with counseling associated with STD testing, Health Services will cease the direct use of this rubric to assess knowledge. Additionally, we are making some changes to the focused Assessment Sheet used for patients seeking STD testing. Changes include a written statement that all information is confidential and will not be released without their specific consent. It also informs that they will not be required to answer questions to which they object.