

PREPARING UNDERGRADUATE NURSES TO CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV INFECTION

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Background

With success of HIV treatments, HIV is no longer a significant health condition in Australia. Many nurses new to the profession may have little exposure to HIV issues or limited experience providing care PLHIV. To ameliorate this, an online module “HIV and Nursing” was developed and undergraduate nurses (UGN) on clinical placement with Sydney District Nursing were given access to the module which provided introductory information on a variety of topics including stigma and treatments.

Method

A 12-month audit was completed following use of online module reviewing pre/ post survey to assess preexisting education, experience and HIV related knowledge.

Results

70 surveys completed.

Pre:

HIV education from their university ranged between nil (18%) and >4 hours (29%). 87% felt ill equipped to provide care to PLHIV. 70% felt unprepared and 51% were concerned about providing care. 69% had poor HIV knowledge and felt they did not know how to talk to PLHIV (49%).

20% thought PLHIV should be nursed in isolation with 32% thinking additional infection control was required. 39% had heard of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Post:

100% increase in awareness of issues for PLHIV; 98% felt more prepared to provide care. Knowledge of infection control improved by 75% and PEP to 98%.

Additionally all students were aware of stigma and discrimination but watching vignettes from PLHIV, 98% felt an increase in awareness of stigma & discrimination and its impact.

Conclusion:

Improved knowledge of HIV issues for UGN and an increased awareness of issues pertinent to PLHIV can have an improved impact on provision of care. Following

completion of this module during clinical placement it is anticipated that UGN will be more prepared when they meet a HIV + person in the future whilst they access varied types of clinical care and support as they age.