An innovative approach to learning which delivered a contemporary maternal infant health module in an undergraduate nursing programme

Maternal infant health: Innovation in education

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Background

- Schools of nursing are charged with ensuring that BN graduates are prepared to meet the Registered Nurse Scope of Practice across the life span.
- The development of direct entry Midwifery degree courses and a separate council for midwives reflects the growing specialisation of this area of practice.
- The knowledge and skills required by Registered nurses is so much more than the physiological processes occurring.
- Pressure on clinical placements.
CONTEXT: The School of Nursing
University of Auckland

- Established 2000
- Co-located with medicine, pharmacy, nutrition and optometry
- Faculty situated across the road from Auckland City Hospital
- One intake a year - 100 students/year
- Infant and maternal health within third year course
What was...

- A case study approach
- Follow through a woman’s experience through the last few months of her pregnancy
- Needed to find a pregnant woman due about May
- Expectation of 2 antenatal and 2 postnatal visits
- Written case study often 5000+ words, due towards the end of semester so alongside other work
- NOT enjoyed by students - negative feedback
- Heavy teacher workload

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Opportunity for Innovation

- Opportunity to re-conceptualise this module
- Woman and family focused
- Receptive to student learning needs
- A collaboration between lecturers and learning designers
- Incorporating e-learning/blended learning
Model overview

- Lectures
- Assessments
- Online Workbook
- Clinical Workshops
- Guided Conversations
Online work book

- Workbook - sequenced theory and short answer questions & activities
- Sections:
  - 1 - Pre-knowledge quiz covering conception, A&P (year 1 content)
  - 2 - Ethics, Values and Advocacy (introduces guided conversation)
  - 3 - Antenatal care
  - 4 - Childbirth
  - 5 - Postnatal care
Quality considerations

- Content peer reviewed by a Midwife and senior Child Health Nurse
- Tested by external learning support expert
- Meet RN scope of practice for a new graduate
- 1\textsuperscript{st} year - progressed slowly and carefully
Are they learning?

- Formative quizzes (after section 1, 3, 4, 5)
  - Multiple attempts; 20 questions in 30 mins; on shuffle
- Short answer questions
- Linked to guided conversation, lectures and workshop
- Some model answers
- Refers students to textbook
- Summative MCQ at conclusion - 10% of course grade

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Question 1

The thinning of the cervix during labour is called:

a) Dilation
b) Effacement
c) Station
d) Presentation
Question 2

A woman has difficulty voiding following delivery. You would explain that the reason for this is

a. the bladder fills slowly following childbirth
b. she is not trying hard enough
c. she must have a cervical tear, reducing bladder sensation
d. perineal oedema makes voiding difficult
Question 3

A newborn infant has loose, yellow stools. Although the infant is healthy, his mother is concerned that this means he is allergic to breast milk. You would explain to her that

a. she might try burping the infant more frequently
b. the stools of breast-fed infants are normally loose
c. she might consider changing to a soybean formula
d. her child may need to be investigated for bile duct disease
Results

- Student satisfaction - high; like self-paced, interactive nature; can do it anywhere, anytime; quick feedback
- 100% pass the Summative MCQ
- 100% pass in State
- Lecturer satisfaction - high
Lessons Learnt...

- Teacher feedback
  - Time to create upfront
  - Less marking
  - Need to keep updated

- Plan ahead
- Blended works
- Keep communication open
- Expect to do updates yearly
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Questions?

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