Visibility of Shared Decision Making in Nursing Education: A Pilot Study

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Shared decision making (SDM) encourages health care professionals to invite the patient’s involvement in the process of treatment decisions. Provision of information and support of patient values and preferences may improve health outcomes as well as improve job satisfaction for nurses. Despite efforts to encourage SDM in practice, patients report dissatisfaction with SDM. In addition, little is known about how nursing students attain mastery of this process. This qualitative descriptive study serves as a foundation for how shared decision making is promoted in an undergraduate nursing program. The purpose of this study is to explore the visibility of teaching and assessment of SDM in undergraduate nursing education. The research question is: How is mastery of shared decision making being achieved in nursing education? Faculty will be invited to complete a survey with open ended questions about how SDM is taught, assessed, along with what might enhance education about SDM. There is evidence suggesting a lack of confidence that SDM is being mastered. Exploration of SDM in nursing education may reveal at what point an intervention may be most effective. Future studies could include exploration of instructional timing and various approaches for assessment of mastery such as exam questions verses simulation.