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# **Medication safety: an interprofessional approach to learning in the Bachelor of Nursing**

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# Background

- Annually in Australia estimated 190,000 medication-related hospital admissions, costing approximately \$660 million annually (Roughead & Semple, 2009)
- Significant patient safety issue (Roughead & Semple, 2009)
- Safe medication administration involves the contributions of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, patients and their families
- Interprofessional education (IPE) is a strategy to effectively prepare future health care practitioners to be “collaborative practice-ready” (WHO, 2012).

# Aim

- Embed an IPE approach to learning about medication safety in the Griffith University undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing (BN) program
- The project aim: to improve safety and enhance patient outcomes by developing students' awareness of error producing factors, and associated strategies to reduce these errors.

# Context

- 1802NRS Medication and Safe Administration
  - » First year, second semester BN course
  - » The course embeds patient safety principles and pharmacology...difficult concepts for first year students to understand
  - » The major challenge:
    - Most of these BN students have no clinical experience, making it difficult for them to apply patient safety principles in discussions

# Method

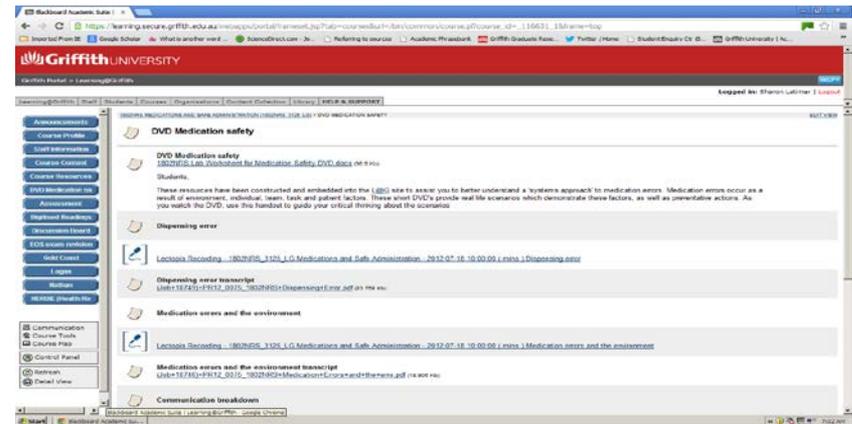
- Guided by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC), patient-centred care framework, 5 generic medication safety vignettes were developed (DVD format) by the Course Convenors
- The DVD focus: implementing a systems approach to reducing medication error:
  - » environment, team, task, individual and system factors that contribute to errors
  - » demonstrate an IPE approach to medication safety including team functioning

# DVD vignette: development supported by a GU L&T grant



# Student application

- The DVD vignettes are based on real case scenarios
- Used in teacher-led education sessions during
  - » Lectures and labs
  - » Embedded in L@G



- The vignettes were designed to support student learning and strongly aligned with assessment

# Results

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of this tool gathered in two ways:
  1. Survey of BN students who completed the 1802NRS course in 2011, and who completed the assessment item without access to the DVD vignettes as a resource
  2. Comparison of the 2011 & 2012 assessment item results, which assesses students knowledge of medication error producing factors, and the strategies to reduce them

# Results

1. Survey:  $n = 28$ . Most students ( $n = 27$ ; 96.4%) either strongly agreed or agreed the vignettes demonstrated a systems and IPE approach to medication errors, and the strategies ( $n = 26$ ; 92.9%) to avert medication errors were clinically current and relevant for BN students
2. Assessment item comparison: 2012 cohort demonstrated a richer understanding of medication error producing factors, and the strategies to reduce them, compared to the 2011 cohort

# Conclusion

- IPE is a critical component in developing safe medication practices for undergraduate health professionals
- This project developed a series of DVD vignettes as a teaching tool for BN students, reflecting a IPE and systems approach to reducing medication error
- Initial results suggest this is a powerful learning tool develops students' awareness of medication error producing factors and preventive strategies

# References

- Roughead EE, Semple SJ. Medication safety in acute care in Australia: Where are we now? Part 1: A review of the extent and causes of medication problems 2002-2008. *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy*. 2009;6(18).
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