

Nursing Practice, Education and IT: Seeking Excellence

From an educational perspective, discovering new approaches in teaching is always a challenge for the classroom facilitator. Psychomotor skill (physical assessment) development in nursing education has followed traditional methods of lecture, video viewing, and demonstration. This approach may be useful for some aspects of psychomotor skill acquisition, however in order to challenge students and encourage adult learning principles in this very specific aspect of nursing development. Thus a CD ROM (as a demonstration tool), with support from WebCt was developed to enable a portable method of teaching and learning.

Current students are more familiar and at ease with learning via new technologies. Acknowledging this we decided to explore how teaching physical assessment could be approached in a different way. Pre-existing videos of physical assessment were edited and burnt onto CDROM; a website created to support the CD. At the beginning of each semester each student will be informed how to access the study unit on-line and will also be provided with a Health Assessment for Nurses CD.

The web site was created to provide a colourful, fun and interactive teaching learning style. Key features of the website include a discussion board which will be further developed to exchange information, discuss clinical experiences and inform peers of other relevant websites related to physical assessment. Optional on line quizzes (formative and summative), critical thinking exercises, and interactive websites enable students to progress and evaluate learning outcomes in a safe and secure environment. Colour was used purposefully to engage students in their learning endeavours; to assist in reinforcing aspects of physical assessment cartoons, key learning features and icons are presented. This presentation will demonstrate how the website and CD ROM were constructed, the links between the CD ROM to the on-line features; and significantly the student's evaluation of this innovative learning tool.

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