

"Try It" Mini Grant May, 2016 Report

Title of Project

Simulated Nursing Care of the New Obese Patient Utilizing the Simulaid's "SimObesityShirt"

Grant Recipient

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increase their obesity content for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. This provided a foundation which better prepared students to care for an obese patient in the simulation experience. The Simulation Lab staff was able to revise a current heart failure simulation to include obesity care. These changes were completed in early fall 2015 before the simulation experiences started.

We purchased the SimObesityShirt which simulates a 350 pound patient. One challenge associated with simulation is creating realistic scenarios and patient responses so that students are better able to suspend disbelief and treat the simulator as a live patient. As the realism of the scenario is improved, students' learning is enhanced (Durham & Alden, 2008). This shirt fits over all of the adult manikins in our Simulation Lab or can be worn by a standardized patient. It provides a realistic simulation of obesity, with weighted pendulous breasts and pannus. To make the SimObesityShirt more realistic for nursing skin assessment, we used moulage

The SimObesityShirt did present us with a few challenges. The shirt simulated an obese patient, yet was not actually heavy when the students moved the manikin. The heart, lung and abdomen assessment was a challenge because the suit muffled the sounds requiring the students to place their stethoscope under the suit. Typically the students obtain a manual blood pressure reading from the manikin

