

Pharmacology Summative Assessments in the AAS Nursing Curriculum

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Editorial note

Statement of the problem: The City of Chicago Associate Applied Science (AAS) nursing program curriculum does not offer a pharmacology course. In preparation for student's success on the National Council Licensure Examination Registered Nurse exam (NCLEX-RN), nursing faculty adopted web-based pharmacology contents, to provide additional support and to assist students in learning the concepts of pharmacology throughout the curriculum. At the end of the two-year program, the student's knowledge of pharmacology was assessed by administering two examinations: ATI-RN Pharmacology exam and ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor exam. If the students are passing the ATI Comprehensive Predictor exam which incorporates pharmacology, is it necessary to administer the additional ATI RN Pharmacology examination.

The purpose of this research is to identify the effectiveness and relevance of administering both examinations to assess the student's knowledge of pharmacology content at the end of the nursing program.

Methodology and Procedure Nursing faculty participated in a one-hour meeting to discuss two cohort group scores of the two pharmacology summative assessments, read an excerpt and reviewed a video on summative assessment. A quantitative study was utilized to analyze the data.

Findings The results identified that the ATI RN pharmacology exam scores had no significant effect on the student's performance on the pharmacology content on the ATI RN Comprehensive PredicPurpose The purpose of this research is to identify the effectiveness and relevance of administering both examinations to assess the student's knowledge of pharmacology content at the end

of the nursing program examination. Faculty addressed two questions Does the ATI RN Pharmacology examination provide an accurate assessment of the learned content Does the ATI RN Pharmacology results correlate with the students' performance on the ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor examination The ATI RN Pharmacology examination results may not reflect student's knowledge of the content because the exam does not count toward program completion. Recommendations were to use the 70-item ATI RN pharmacology exam as a graded item or omit it as an additional assessment.

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