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Development of an Augmentative and Alternative Communication app. for Makaton

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As part of the theme of communication in phase one undergraduate nursing curriculum students are asked to produce an information leaflet to help enhance communication with patients and clients. As a result of this exercise students were finding out about Makaton as an augmentative alternative communication tool (AAC) and asked if they would have opportunity to learn this skill as part of the programme.

Aim: Provide undergraduate nursing students with the information and skills necessary to engage patients / clients with a communication deficit. Develop a teaching tool on Makaton which is up to date, current and easily accessible. It is hoped by developing this app. nursing students will have a greater understanding of communication deficits and be able to provide patient centered care that is considerate to the individual needs.

Methods:

Stage 1: Purchase the license for Makaton

Stage 2: The development of a teaching tool template that includes all the essential aspects required for Makaton training.

Stage 3: Collaboration with a computer technician to produce video clips, podcasts, interactive tests and hyperlinks to key areas.

Stage 4: Transferring the multimedia outputs into an app. accessible for students.

Stage 5: Pilot app. with year 1 undergraduate students and year 1 teachers

Stage 6: App. made available to all year 1 students.

Stage 7: Evaluation of app.

Outcomes: By providing nurses with an easy to use aid memoire this should improve communication and client's satisfaction with the service.

The importance of Makaton as an Augmentative and Alternative Communication methods is highlighted.

Conclusion: By developing this app. nursing students will have a greater understanding of communication deficits and be able to provide patient centered care that is considerate to the individual's needs.

Biography

Susan Carlisle has been a Registered nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC UK) for 40 years. She has been involved in Nurse Education for many years, lecturing in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University since 1997. As Year Lead is responsible for all aspects regarding delivery of year one of the BSc Nursing program. She is constantly reviewing curriculum content to ensure all students are given opportunities to deliver safe, compassionate and respectful patient care. By using creative ways to encourage thinking and knowledge around the patient experience challenging students to think how care is delivered.