Simulation teaching in the prevention of healthcare-associated infections

This post is focused on integration of simulation teaching methods in the general education process of nurses in basic preventive precautions connected with healthcare-associated infections. The information is based on educational practice and relevant national and international resources that have been published by the PubMed, ScienceDirect, Scopus, and other scientific databases. Preventing of healthcare-associated infections is an important part of quality and safety of health services. An important aspect is the actual education of nursing students using different teaching methods, including lectures with simulations. Implementation of these methods increases steadily nowadays. As a part inclusion of teaching simulation methods in the educational process, students improve their knowledge, skills and attitudes in a controlled environment. They are part of the core of the learning strategy. The simulation teaching process consists of several phases including planning, implementation or self-realization, evaluation and review. At the planning stage, it is important to rely on available relevant resources. The plan should include achievement of expected results, problem solving procedures, team work, simulation determination, pedagogical intervention, etc. The implementation phase involves the realization of a defined state according to a pre-established plan. The evaluation phase includes evaluation of the effectiveness of simulation teaching, assessment of students’ knowledge, skills and attitudes. An important part is to evaluate the satisfaction of the student and the teacher. The review phase is the last phase of the evaluation and, if necessary, the revision of the simulation training plan. Simulation lessons in the prevention of healthcare-associated infections can be applied to hygienic disinfection of hands, using of gloves, disinfection and sterilization, collection of biological material, use of personal protective equipment, appropriate manipulation of objects and aids in nursing practice, isolation precautions avoiding the occurrence of various microorganisms in other areas.