

"The Veterinary Nursing Online Clinical Placement Tool" - Final Report

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The Veterinary Nursing Online Clinical Placement Tool project was based on the EMS Driving Licence project; a computer aided learning (CAL) package created by The RVC and The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Edinburgh to help prepare veterinary students for their placements (EMS).

Stakeholder Consultation

- Veterinary Nurses in Practice

Interviews were held with three veterinary nurses in practice. The nurses viewed the EMS Driving Licence CAL. Content was evaluated as being suitable for a nursing version, requiring some amendments, and being unsuitable. They also identified specific issues particularly relevant for nursing students that were not addressed in the original CAL.

- RVC lecturers

Two RVC lecturers also viewed the CAL and provided comments.

- Veterinary Nursing Students

Eight first year nursing students took part in a focus group. They commented on their concerns or worries prior to their first placement; how prepared they felt; good and bad experiences at their placement and advice they would have liked to have been given prior to their first placement. Ethics approval for the whole project was granted.

Initial CAL Development

The EMS Driving Licence was changed based on the stakeholder consultations to create the 'VN Online Clinical Placement Tool'.

Evaluation

- Veterinary Nursing Students

The CAL was evaluated through a focus group with five second year nursing students. The students used the CAL and then provided comments on its usefulness, as well as areas for improvements. The students identified many positive aspects of the CAL, such as the 'Tips' section and the 'Frequently Asked Questions'. One student stated "I wish we had something like this because I went in at the deep end, badly".

- Nurses in Practice

The CAL was re-sent to the three veterinary nurses in practice. The feedback was very positive, with all three nurses reporting that they would use the CAL with future students: "This is fantastic, exactly what is needed", "I have looked through the Tool and it seems to cover everything I can think of", "The information on nails, hair and uniform was very good and well put, plus it needed to be said".

Five RVC lecturers provided further comments, and final amendments were made to the CAL, for example videos to introduce the sections were implemented.

Dissemination and Release

The results of the project are to be presented at the second Veterinary Education Symposium UK in Nottingham 2011 and AMEE 2011. The 'VN Online Clinical Learning Tool' is available for free at www.live.ac.uk/vn_placement. This link has been sent to all UK veterinary nursing schools.