

Science Strand 5: Processes and interactions of the Earth's Systems (Geosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere)

CLE: 5.3. Human activity is dependent upon and affects Earth's resources and systems

Health Profession: Nurse

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Objectives:

At the completion of this presentation the high school student will be able to:

- 1. Understand the effects that the healthcare systems play on the environment.**
- 2. Actively learn to collaborate**
- 3. Value the connection of the environment and resources.**
- 4. Understand their role in making a difference in conserving resources.**

Background Summary of Information as Related to Nurses and CLE

Up until recent years much of the products used to provide healthcare have been cleaned and reused. Today the healthcare system is much different. Untold amounts of medical waste/garbage are thrown away daily not only in this country, but most if not all medically advanced countries. The fact is that much of, for example operation room supplies could be safely cleaned and reused. It is also true that much of the disposed waste from the healthcare system is petroleum based, which contributes to demand and in turn pollution. Nurses and other healthcare workers are faced the task to find ways to conserve safely supplies where possible of for the sake of the environment.

Scenario:

Mary a nurse on a medical surgical floor at the hospital has a patient who was in isolation due to highly contagious bacteria. Mary knows that she is required to put on gloves, gown, and a mask every time she enters her patients' room. Mary is well aware of the effect healthcare waste plays on the environment and really wants to do her part to help conserve were possible. Because of Mary's forethought Mary is able to plan her trips into her patients' room and save up to six sets of isolation garb every time she takes an isolation patient. Mary generally takes two isolation patients every week. Mary is glad to know that by planning ahead to take extra supplies or anything that might be needed into isolation rooms she saves up to 624 sets of isolation garb.

Activities:

Students will role-play a nurse, a nurse tech, respiratory, and housekeeping.

Props needed-

- 1. Something that will can be used as a gown. Old tee shirt, sheet.**
- 2. Gloves**
- 3. Mask (something that represents a surgical mask).**

Nurses schedule

0800 - AM assessment
0900 – Medications
1000 – Med pain assessment
1130 – Glucose check
1300 – Medications
1400 – Med pain assessment
1500 – Glucose checks and snacks
1530 – Patient pages nurse for help to the restroom
1700 – Glucose check
1700 - Medication
1800 – Scheduled patient education

Nurses aid schedule

0700 - Breakfast
0800 - Vital signs
1000 – Bath
1000 – Change bedding
1200 – Lunch
1200 – Vital signs
1400 – Transport to radiology
1600 – Vital signs
1730 – Dinner

Respiratory Schedule

1000 – Breathing treatment
1600 – Breathing treatment

Housekeeping Schedule

1100 – Clean the room
1300 - Takeout the trash

Set up a simulation and have students reenact the caretakers schedules.
After first reenactment allow the students to collaborate on tasks.

Guidelines

Nurses can perform all nurses aid tasks.
Aides can perform housekeeping tasks.
Medications can be given 1 hour before or after scheduled time.

Educational Opportunities

There are many types of education opportunities available to the public. Many of the state educational intuitions offer nursing as a major. Other vocational schools offer certified nurse assistant, and practical nursing degrees. Missouri Western State University is located in St. Joseph and an example of this program is below.