Risk aware: enhancing students’ clinical competence in risky environments through blended simulation-based learning

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Enhancing students’ clinical competence in risky environments through a blended simulation-based learning program

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http://www.riskaware.education
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Context

• Students across the healthcare field engage in clinical placement as a component of their education. Clinical placement enables consolidation and extension of emerging skills in a workplace context.

• In psychology, trainees are expected to complete a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised clinical practice.
Context concerns

• **declining access** to placements due to increasing student numbers (Department of Health, 2011);

• **limited availability** of appropriately qualified placement supervisors (Rudd, Dobozy, & Smith, 2010);

• **risks** associated with student exposure to unpredictable placement environments (McManamny, Boyd, & Sheen, 2013).
Context concerns

“Staff in shock after series of violent assaults by patients on secure unit nurses”

“Health staff call on government to protect them from violence, aggression at work”

“Beloved doctor struck outside hospital”
Addressing risk
Two Step Process

- **Phase One** – explore direct risks to students associated with clinical placement environment
  - Literature review, survey of post-graduate psychology students across four states and interviews with key stakeholders.

- **Phase Two** – based on key findings develop an e-learning program that would enhance students’ clinical competence in risky environments
Educational design

• *Risk Aware* is an online simulation-based education program (SBE).

• Designed to align with Kolb’s model of experiential learning (1984).
Concrete experience

Active experimentation

Reflective observation

Abstract conceptualisation
Aggression Module

Managing Aggression and Physical Violence
Factors Contributing to Aggression

Please watch the video before proceeding to the next page.

Video runtime: 7 minutes 7 seconds
Clinical Dilemma 1: Video

Identifying and understanding your own responses to aggression is fundamental in managing aggression. Consider the following clinical dilemma and respond to the subsequent questions.
Evaluation

- **Participants**: Students across partner institutions in Australia, enrolled in the first year of a professional psychology postgraduate degree, have completed *Risk Aware* in 2017 (N = 149)

- **Method**: At the commencement of each *Risk Aware* module and following completion, students have been asked to:
  
  i) provide confidence ratings

  ii) complete a knowledge quiz

  iii) complete a competency based assessment

  iv) sub-sample of participants also completed semi-structured interviews after commencing placement.
Results

- Significant increase in confidence and knowledge
- Exception on psychological and emotional module
- Excellent achievement on competency based items
- Further work needs to be done to understand the relationship between experience and confidence, timing of placement and confidence
Coming soon...

Interdisciplinary version launching

December 2018
Access to Risk Aware

Freely available
For access, please contact Project Manager:

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Demonstration version available at:

https://riskaware.education/demo/
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Module 2: Interpersonal Risks
Dr Jade Sheen and Dr Clint Gurtman

Module 3: Contamination Risks
Cabrini Institute

Module 4: Environmental Risks
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Module 5: Aggression and Physical Violence
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Module 6: Psychological / Emotional Risks
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Module 7: Educational / Placement Specific Risks
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Webinar Session feedback

With thanks from your hosts

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Recording available
http://transformingassessment.com