

Educational Initiative

DEVELOPMENT OF A GRADING RUBRIC FOR SUMMATIVE PRACTICAL SCENARIO ASSESSMENTS IN THE PARAMEDIC DEGREE PROGRAMME AT WHITIREIA NZ

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Link to conference theme

The development of the rubric has resulted in a comprehensive breakdown of specific elements of paramedic care that is useful for practicing clinicians (beyond the Tertiary arena). The flow of new educational and/or simulation models of practice out into industry aligns with the 'Reaching Out' theme of the conference.

Abstract

Simulation is widely used in Healthcare as a learning modality, but rarely for graded summative assessments. Over the last five years, the Paramedic Degree Programme at Whitireia NZ has been developing a rubric to help grade summative practical scenarios. Previously, the practical component of the course was a pass/fail assessment, with no grade allocated. Now, students receive an A+, A, B+, B, C+, or F grade in the same way they would for a piece of academic writing or written exam.

The development of the rubric has led to much discussion and learning among the team around what elements are critical for students to demonstrate, and how much weighting is assigned to each portion of the care they deliver. Before being able to describe the specifics of what constitutes excellent Paramedic care, the team had to brainstorm and workshop this concept; much learning flowed out of the process of dissecting a typical Paramedic job down to its constituent parts. The result: for the teaching team, clearness around what elements of student performance were being measured; for the students, more clarity about the specific essentials and rudiments of Paramedic care that they were expected to master and demonstrate.

Ken MacIver, who tutors on the degree programme and is a practicing Intensive Care Paramedic, drafted the most recent version of the rubric. He discusses its evolution: from the original adaptation of Kathie Lasater's clinical judgement rubric for nurses, to the current iteration which has been tailored specifically for Paramedic care.

Conflicts of Interest

The author is a degree lecturer at Whitireia NZ.