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DEVELOPING OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING RESOURCES AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR NEUROSCIENCE NURSES

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Project Aim:

To report on progress so far in a joint clinical and academic project to develop multi-media flexible learning materials and support. focusing on the care of a head injured patient from four minutes to four months.

Learning outcomes:

The work aims to help others:

- Appreciate the clinical and academic background of change in which this need became obvious.
- Understand the contribution from each discipline in the development of a multidisciplinary video series, mapping the collaborative care pathway of a head-injured patient.
- Discuss clinical issues related to guidelines and protocols, practical skill development and background theoretical and clinical knowledge in acute and rehabilitative care.
- Appreciate the potential of CD ROM and courseware material in developing preceptorship and specialist neuroscience nurses.

The aim of the report is to describe the process and progress of a project involving clinicians and academic staff in developing a series of three videos dedicated to eliciting expert view from all disciplines involved in the care pathway of a head-injured patient. The need for developing this material is described and includes:

- the merger of three neuroscience units into one regional centre
- the pressures on clinical staff of time and clinical needs
- the need to develop clear evidence based guidelines
- different levels of post-registration experience and role responsibility in the nursing team

The project's overall action plan is described from the process of developing the videos and the written support material through to the planned second phase of using clips from the video to develop on-line topic specific material, e.g raised intracranial pressure, mechanical ventilation and other practical skill areas. This second phase needed to use the methods of action research to identify specifically needed topic areas. Future plans are outlined in relation to using internet technology to facilitate online and CD ROM based learning. The data collection

process is described as an ongoing part of the process and includes semi-structured interviews, field notes and questionnaires. The methods of analysis are made clear. The findings are presented that cover the following key areas

- the process of video making, including the technical educational and media aspects
- the level of collaborative effort in achieving the project aims
- specific issues arising from current trends in the care of head-injured patients
- guidelines, protocols and uncertainties
- evaluation of the student/preceptee learning experience, understanding and skill
- acquisition at different points along the continuum of care.