



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: SIMCHART

SCHOOL NAME: Pensacola State College

INSTRUCTOR: Angela Sanders

SimChart provides students with electronic health record documentation experience

Background: *The Nursing Department at Pensacola State College in Florida offers associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing. Other programs include practical nursing, LPN to ADN, paramedic to ADN, and an advanced certificate in perioperative nursing for RNs without experience in the specialty.*

Issue: *Nursing faculty at Pensacola State College in Florida wanted a system that integrated nursing informatics into the curriculum and gave students the opportunity to practice documenting in the electronic health record.*

Approach: *Pensacola State College in Florida started using NurseSquared in 2011 and switched to SimChart, the upgraded version of NurseSquared, in 2012. The nursing program allowed time for training and developed a plan for integrating SimChart into its curriculum. Faculty implemented the program in stages. They also have a consistent approach in how they use SimChart to avoid confusion among students.*

Students use the program in the skills lab so as they learn a new skill, they can document it in an electronic health record. In the clinical setting, students document in SimChart instead of the hospital's electronic health record; safety filters prevent students from entering a patient's full name or other identifying information into SimChart to avoid HIPAA violations.

Faculty use the case studies provided by SimChart and find them to be realistic. Students use check boxes based on nursing diagnoses to create a care plan, which helps them better understand the nursing process.

The format of the information in SimChart helps students build their critical thinking skills and clinical judgment. For example, if a student selects "urine" from a screen related to patient "output," the next screen asks what the urine looks like. Students then start to learn how various assessment findings affect patient care. If a student selects an entry outside of normal values, SimChart gives a warning message, which prompts the student to rethink the action.

Results: *Faculty report that SimChart has helped improve students' critical thinking skills. In addition, hospitals have provided feedback that they appreciate students having a special documentation program instead of using the hospital's electronic health record.*

Benefits: *SimChart helps students learn how to document in an electronic health record, which promotes their critical thinking skills, and provides instructors with the opportunity to integrate various tools, such as case studies, into their students' learning experience. SimChart is compatible with both PC and Mac computers.*