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Virtual Reality Training Utilization in Healthcare, It's Virtually Done

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ABSTRACT

The utilization of virtual reality technology for training represents a viable option for the health care industry. The amount of time and expense involved with training new personnel is great. Instructor's time is limited, and the amount of time available for training personnel continues to diminish.

Virtual reality training has been shown to be highly effective in other industries that have a comparative level of expertise needed. The airline industry has supported and effectively utilized virtual reality training for their personnel for years. Their work represents a parallel with the health care industry in regard to the effect of a mistake on the people who are in their care. The use of virtual reality training has shown itself to be a very effective method for the airline industry and has been shown effective in the prevention of errors. When similar studies were done in a variety of health care scenarios, virtual reality training was shown to be a very effective method for training staff, medical students, nursing students, residents and others.

The applications for virtual reality training in the health care industry represent a viable direction to consider. Information technology has been shown to be a very useful tool for teaching, learning, collecting data, and performing research. The capabilities for computer usage in training health care personnel go far beyond what we have even imagined. In the future of health care education, hopefully we can see everything virtually done.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Barbara Medling, BSN, RNBC, CNOR is in the process of completing a Masters in Health Care Administration with an emphasis in health care informatics. She has 10 years of experience in the perioperative nursing field, and has worked in a variety of surgical nursing specialties. The main focus for the past 3 years has been on perioperative education. This has included project planning and development of reliable training methods for perioperative computer usage. She enjoys teaching, training and developing new methods for helping others to learn new processes and systems.

Barbara has presented on fire safety in the operating room, laser safety and other topics. She also was chosen to speak on increasing the utilization of computers in perioperative

nursing education at AORN world congress.

Barb is a member of, ANIA, Caring, AORN, and is president of her local AORN chapter.