Blog #3. Bellevue Hospital 461 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 8:00-11:00 AM.

I was actually a little apprehended about the overall simulation experience, but it was a great learning opportunity. The experience made me realize the challenges Community Health Nurses (CHN) go through when conducting patient assessments in a home setting. I experienced fear, and felt unprepared to make decisions in regards to the patients’ critical status. I also learned about the importance of team work, and to appreciate others perspective. My team was very supportive and humble, which made me feel at ease and less stressful. When I entered each simulation room, I was petrified about patients’ medical condition. My colleagues and I were discussing clinical strategies to best assist the patients, but once we entered the simulation room the strategies faded. Despite the patients’ medical status, one must be mindful about other underlying conditions that might add on to the patients’ already stressful life. Nurses must considered patients’ cultural background, values, and beliefs prior to providing care.

The simulation lab experience should be part of the nursing curriculum, because it provides students with additional insight. The simulation lab experience gives students the opportunity to make errors without posing a danger to anyone. Every nursing student should be exposed to the simulation lab experience at least once every semester. The simulation lab should also include physical assessments of every system discussed in the Physical Assessment course. The physical assessment should include a thorough description of each system and its function. The students would benefit from this experience, and enhance their clinical skills. It would be helpful to have professors perform physical assessments, and have students execute a return demonstration. The simulation lab is the best place to make mistakes and it should be the best learning experience.