



### **Empowering and Educating Novice Nurses to Intervene in Clinical Deterioration**

Maija R. Anderson, DNP, RN; Joylin Calhoun, DNP, RN, VHA-CM; Angela Davis, MS, RN; and Pawn Johnson-Hunter, MSN, RN

Evaluation of learning in undergraduate programs is heavily based on knowledge and technical skill assessment more than demonstration of critical thinking. Higher acuity, sicker patients that novice nurses encounter will have complex needs. The ability of the nurse to manage clinically deteriorating patients is crucial. As a growing part of the workforce, novices are likely to be first responders and they need to be prepared to manage these patients. Evidence identifies classic warning signs of deterioration and impending arrest. If novice nurses are educated and trained to recognize these signs and intervene appropriately, they will be empowered and able to impact outcomes in failure to rescue situations. The purpose of this review was to design and test an evidence based education strategy using simulation to prepare the novice nurse to recognize and respond to early clinical indicators of clinical deterioration.