**Nursing student:** On your inpatient psychiatry rotation, there is a new patient, Mr. S, with a diagnosis of schizophrenia who is admitted for homicidal ideations and has a history of aggression toward providers. He was brought in by police in an agitated state, and has been placed into the observation room. He has no past medical history, and no labs have been taken. The reason for his agitation is unknown. You are responsible for the initial nursing assessment. In the past you and the supervising nurse have discussed how to be safe with aggressive patients: Put yourself between the patient and the door, establish therapeutic rapport, etc.

**START SCENARIO**

* Give a brief pre-rounds understanding of the patient scenario
* When asked to go see the patient, subtly express concern about the patient’s history of aggression

**END SCENARIO**

**Ask the group: What about this approach was psychologically unsafe?**

**Ask the group: How would you make this scenario psychological safety?**

**RETRY THE SCENARIO IN A PSYCHOLOGICALLY SAFE WAY**

**Supervising Nurse:** On your inpatient psychiatry unit, there is a new patient, Mr. S, with a diagnosis of schizophrenia who is admitted for homicidal ideations and has a history of aggression toward providers. He was brought in by police in an agitated state, and has been placed into the observation room. He has no past medical history, and no labs have been taken. The reason for his agitation is unknown. Your nursing student is responsible for the initial assessment. In the past, you and the nursing student have discussed how to be safe with aggressive patients: Put yourself between the patient and the door, establish therapeutic rapport, etc.

**START SCENARIO**

* The nursing student will give you a brief pre-rounds understanding of the patient scenario
* You acknowledge this and ask the student to go see the patient and “let me know what you think.”
* Dismiss the student’s concerns and say something like “well remember what we talked about… you got this.”

**END SCENARIO**

**Ask the group: What about this approach was psychologically unsafe?**

**Ask the group: How would you make this scenario psychological safety?**

**RETRY THE SCENARIO IN A PSYCHOLOGICALLY SAFE WAY**

**What about this approach was psychologically unsafe?**

* Supervising nurse not reading discomfort cues from the student
* Supervising nurse could ask the student what support they need to feel safe
* Supervising nurse is passively dismissive of the student’s discomfort
* This is inappropriate oversight of ANY student (even if they are “excellent”)

**Improvements for psychological safety**

* Listen closely to the student/trainee before any patient encounter
* Explore hesitation and address concerns, i.e. improve communication
* Consider staying with the nursing student during the session, or having staff stay with them in an easily monitored area of the unit
* Try and put yourself in the student’s shoes: would you feel comfortable seeing this patient on your own with minimal training?