

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Step 1 Description</p> <p>During my second day of clinical, I was able to experience a quite interesting situation. We were caring for an elderly dementia patient with a possible UTI. During our first round of the day at about 0700 we interacted with the patient who was walking around the room with the night nurse. She was obviously very disoriented and was not sure what she needed to be doing. The registered nurse that we were following for the day finally convinced her to relax in the chair. We buckled her in with her safety belt, along with the bed alarm under her. About an hour or so later we entered the room to find that the patient had removed her safety belt, as well as her gown, and was wandering around her room in her bra and a diaper.</p> | <p>Step 4 Analysis</p> <p>It was difficult to know whether or not this was typical behavior for the patient because we had no baseline. The patient was admitted the previous night, so this was also the nurse's first time caring for the patient. I suggested the only way we may know for sure if this was caused by a UTI at the moment was to speak to the family who was familiar with the patient. Dementia is a devastating disease that can greatly impact someone's life. It can tremendously affect the safety of the individual. I think it is important that those caring for dementia or confused patients really focus on keeping a consistent eye on them and taking measures to make sure the surroundings are safe.</p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| | |
| <p>Step 2 Feelings</p> <p>At first the situation was humorous to me. I just couldn't help but giggle a little when we walked in and saw the woman just roaming her room in her diaper and socks. However, immediately I realized that we were extremely grateful that the patient hadn't fallen and hurt herself during the process. I also experienced feelings of sadness at the thought of the women having no control over her mind and actions. It is always heartbreaking to see anyone not able to understand what is going on.</p> | <p>Step 5 Conclusion</p> <p>I think we all could have done a better job of frequently checking on the patient before the event occurred. We could have given her something to keep her busy and kept her distracted by talking with her for a moment during spare time. Moving her chair by the nurses station may have also been beneficial. I learned that it is important to make frequent rounds with any patient who is in a confused state because you never know what they might be up to.</p> |
| <p>Step 3 Evaluation</p> <p>We were very lucky that the patient wasn't harmed during the event. A staff member was able to see the patient in time to assist her and call for help before anything could go wrong. The registered nurse handled the situation well. She was calm as we assisted the patient back into her clothing. She spoke to the patient kindly and allowed the patient to speak even though she was saying things that did not make sense to us. We were able to assist the patient into the chair again with the bed alarm and safety belt on. We also put the bedside table in front of her in a way that would make removing the belt more difficult.</p> | <p>Step 6 Action Plan</p> <p>plan to use this event as a learning experience. The event helped me realize that there are many steps I can take in the future to avoid a situation that ever puts a confused patient at risk of injury. I can further improve my practice by ensuring that I manage time well so that I am able to keep a close eye on those who may need extra attention. Overall, I think the experience was a good look into the reality of caring for those who no longer have control over their mind and the things I can do to help.</p> |