

Pick one topic from the following list:

1. Improving communication about individual patients during shift change. (shift report)
  2. Preventing catheter related infections, urinary or central line.
  3. Preventing falls and injuries for patients within healthcare facilities.
  4. Preventing pressure ulcers for patients within healthcare facilities.
  5. Reducing medication errors.
  6. Reducing nurse turnover rates.
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1. Identify problem areas (or causes) associated with the topic and prioritize each identified problem area. (List at least 3)
    - The patient was given a known allergen.
    - The incorrect dose was administered.
    - A written order was incorrectly read.
  2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)
    - Always ask the patient if they have any allergies and make sure their allergies are listed at the top of the chart.
    - Verify the dose of medication with another nurse before giving it.
    - Make sure that the physician puts orders in the computer system rather than writing them out.
  3. Identify why these problems might exist.
    - The nurse failed to check the patient's allergies.
    - The dose could have been misread.
    - The physician has poor handwriting.

Provide a plan to improve and how to implement the plan. The plan should provide steps for improvement. The implementation should provide a timeline.

The problem at hand is medication errors. The first step to solving the problem after identifying it is to gather staff members for meetings discussing the issue and brainstorming ways to improve. The implementation of education programs on these issues can help improve the incidence of medication errors. The second step is to implement the education programs in the hospital. The education programs would be offered throughout one month. The third step is to gather data and analyze trends. 3-7 days after the education programs are complete, data will be gathered on the incidence of medication errors. The fourth step is to analyze the trends to see if the programs worked to decrease medication errors. The final step is to standardize the process that worked and ensure that the staff members don't slip back into old ways.

4. How will you monitor that your plan is effective?

Collect data over time and analyze the trends to determine the decrease in medication errors.