

Unit 4: Quality Patient Care
Z-Chapter 22
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Discuss the use of key indicators to measure performance. (2,3,7)*
- Describe the nurse's role in quality and performance improvement. (3,4,7)*
- Identify tools and processes for continuous quality improvement. (2,3)*

*Course Objectives

Quality Improvement Project
Due February 12, 2024 @ 0800 in the Z-CH # 22 dropbox

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.

Answer the following questions as it relates to the topic pick from the list above.

1. Identify problem areas (or causes) associated with the topic and prioritize each identified problem area. (List at least 3) **High nurse patient ratios, make sure you are addressing drug allergies, minimize nurse fatigue.**

2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)
Safe nurse patient ratios are something that can easily help prevent any medication errors especially if one nurse has multiple complex patients. Confirming any and all drug allergies with a patient and being sure that a medication is not in the same family as the drug they are allergic to. Nurses are overworked and being fatigued/tired can lower concentration, allowing nurses to do 8 hour shifts instead of 12 hours could help lower this.

3. Identify why these problems might exist.
We are expected to be able to handle high ratios, nurses may get in a rush if they are bust and not confirm allergies, nurses are overworked.

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

Allow nurses to work shorter 8-hour shifts to prevent exhaustion. Provide a pop-up on the MAR that asks if you confirmed patient allergies. I feel that 6 months to a year is adequate time to initiate these changes, possibly longer for the documentation update.

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

I will monitor this by doing surveys for the nurses to see if they are less fatigued working 8 hour shifts, I will monitor the documentation for nurses and see if they are reporting “yes” they have checked the patients allergies.

Please be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class.

In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.