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

Review chapter 22 and place your answers to the following questions in the Z-Chapter 22 dropbox by 0800 on 2/10/2025.

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) 1. Environmental hazards such as cluttered rooms. 2. Patient's mobility level, if the patient has limited mobility, it increases their risk of falling. 3. Staff not being trained well enough on fall prevention protocols or not being able to recognize when a patient needs assistance.
2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3) Environmental hazards solution: ensure that the patient's room is kept clean and organized, not leaving cords out on the floor, and well-lit rooms. Patient's mobility level solution: assess the patient's mobility level on admission and throughout the stay, keep the patient's bed alarm and chair alarm on, grippy socks for the patient, fall risk signs and bands on the patient and in their room to notify others who may enter their room. Staff training solution: the hospital can hold regular training/education for the staff to ensure they know how to properly assist the patient and their needs when it comes to falls.
3. Identify why these problems might exist. These problems may exist due to having to many patients and not enough staff, not performing adequate fall risk assessments on all patients' even if they aren't expected to be high risk, not putting the right precautions in

place like bed alarms and fall risk signs, inadequate continuing education to staff regarding falls.

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. The plan should include monthly checks regarding lighting in rooms, flooring, and cleanliness. Implement fall risk assessments on all patients on admission, even if they are suspected not to be high risk. Create personalized care plans for patient's based on their fall risk score as well as providing the patients with more assistance if they have mobility issues. This should all be done throughout the patient's entire stay. Finally, the facility should be tracking and recording all falls that happen in the hospital as well as having patients take surveys regarding their stay.
5. How will you monitor that your plan is effective? The plan would be effective when there is a decrease in patient falls overall. By conducting surveys from patients and receiving feedback from patients and staff as well as monthly room checks, falls and injuries can be decreased significantly.

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.