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)
   -lack of mobility due to the patients illness, injury, or surgery
   -poor nutrition and hydration
   -Friction
2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)
   (lack of mobility)
   *Assist with regular movements even if that means doing range of motion in bed
   *Use assistive equipment such as walkers to help promote movement.
   *get physical therapy on board to help patient build their strength
   (poor nutrition and hydration)
   *consult with a dietician to create a tailored nutrition plan for individuals at risk
   *Ensure adequate fluid intake to maintain hydration
   *Provide a balanced diet rich in proteins
   (friction)
   *implement proper lifting techniques to avoid dragging the skin across the surface

*Use moisturize to help keep skin hydrated
*Use paddings to high risk areas such as heels and elbows

3. Identify why these problems might exist.
   -these problems might exist due to the lack of resources sometimes it isn't because one doesn't want to reposition the patient but there may be situation in which the nurse is tied up they cannot get time to do it. Sometimes due to the patient's illness as well like for example cancer this may impair their willingness to want to eat or get up out of bed further increasing their chances of impaired skin integrity. Some facilities may also not have the adequate resources that can help with decreasing the chances of acquiring a pressure ulcer so it may be the place one works and the insufficient resources.
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 that I would make is to ensure that there is set turning schedules added in the EMAR that can notify the healthcare personnel of when the patient was last repositioned flagging them to turn the patient. I would also meet with the unit on ways that we can help with the supply shortage even if we don't have specialized equipment to give the patient we can still use blankets, pillows, towels etc. to lift the patients bony prominences to decrease pressure ulcers. Another way is to meet up with the dietary staff to assist in placing these pts on a individualized diet perhaps after a surgery or if the patient is to weak that consists of a higher amount of protein. These steps could be done in a monthly meeting with every department to ensure everyone is on the same page.
5. How will you monitor that your plan is effective?

-I would monitor the effectiveness In 6 months to observe if the cases of pressure ulcers have increased since making the new implementations. I will observe the dietary schedules and If the staff is complying with the turning schedule and will do this viewing the patient's charting.
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.