Patient Safety: Quality Improvement

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The purpose of Quality Improvement as an overall concept is to review and evaluate outcomes, target areas that need enhancement, and implement changes to provide high-quality care (QSEN Institute, 2020). Enforcing protocols to improve patient safety requires nurses to acknowledge that healthcare strategies are constantly changing and improving- making it vital to identify any knowledge gaps to ensure best practice implementation (QSEN Institute, 2020). Working with other healthcare staff and appreciating their contributions allows for improved quality of patient care (QSEN Institute, 2020). Patient safety is a nurse's top priority (Vaismoradi et al., 2020). Nurses identify potential risks and implement safety precautions to reduce any harm that may come to the patient while in their care (Vaismoradi et al., 2020). Patient safety is significant in ensuring that health care services provide the highest quality of care and minimize any avoidable harm that could come to the patient (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

Article Summary

The article, *Nurses' Adherence to Patient Safety Principles: A Systematic Review*, explores what makes nurses compliant in preserving patient safety. Whether that safety is regarding infection prevention, reducing medication errors, ensuring equipment functions correctly, educating patients, and much more. Patient safety is a team effort, meaning that each health care team member takes responsibility and accountability for the safety of the patients in their care (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

Introduction

The primary purpose is to pinpoint factors that increase nurses' compliance in patient safety to reduce medical errors. Safety management relies on nurses to uphold guidelines and regulations regarding quality care. The article links patient safety to nurses' compliance. This article explores the factors that impact compliance, such as the patient, the task, work environment, organization, and management. It also addresses how nurses can identify risks and uphold safety regulations. Such as assessing the patient's individual needs, personalizing their care plan, routinely monitoring their progress, offering assistance when needed, and keeping open communication with their healthcare team (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

Overview

This article relates to patient safety by exploring the nurses' role in keeping patients safe. Patient safety relies on nurse compliance. This article relates to the QSEN competency Quality Improvement by basing their results on nurses' knowledge of patient safety initiatives, collaborating with their health care team to delegate and reduce overall workloads, ensure proper equipment functioning, and sharing and receiving information to improve patient outcomes (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

Quality Improvement

The care setting that the Quality Improvement effort could implement is checking on the patient more frequently to assess their pain or comfort and just providing the patient with more supervision. A way to start the implementation of Quality Improvement would be providing nurses with more opportunities to continue their education, which is also essential in quality care. Having more nurses together to collaborate and support one another seems to improve nurses' compliance during the implementation stage. Designated spaces for specific tasks, up-to-date equipment, and appropriate monitoring units help keep nurses focused and compliant. The

suggested change could impact the institution financially by keeping costs low from minimizing

medical errors with designated spaces, proper equipment, and appropriate monitoring units. The

initial start-up could be expensive but considering these implementations could reduce healthcare

costs by $108 million U.S., the payout would render the start-up cost insignificant. Routine

patient assessment, they would feel more cared for, increasing patient satisfaction. With more

nurses to collaborate with, nursing satisfaction would increase. With encouragement from health

care leadership, nurses' will be more motivated to ensure proper practices for patient safety and

thus increase nursing safety (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

Application to Nursing

Superior care that encapsulates patient safety relies on proper patient safety education.

For nurses to have the opportunity to learn how to maneuver through safety situations, there is a

requirement for patient safety courses to be incorporated into the student nursing curriculum.

(Howley et al., 2020). Nursing practices need hands-on learning approaches to monitor the

patient's health status for changes and understand how to identify medical errors (Phillips et al.,

2021). By frequently assessing for knowledge gaps, professors can modify the learning material

to ensure students comprehend and retain the information provided (Howley et al., 2020).

Practice

The best nursing practices for maintaining patient safety are continuous monitoring of the

patient's health status, identifying any changes, and discovering any medical errors. Nurses must

remain vigilant of any health status changes or potential safety hazards. Remaining vigilant

means nurses should perform purposeful and timely rounds to check on their patients. They must

also effectively and actively communicate with their healthcare team to reduce preventable harm.

To effectively and actively communicate, nurses need to keep open communication with the healthcare staff during a nursing shift (Phillips et al., 2021).

Education

Despite patient safety being a nurse's top priority, there is limited instruction regarding patient safety during a nurse's education (Beekman et al., 2019). In order to provide a safe environment for patient's nurses must first be able to identify safety errors. In the article, *Safety Morning Report: Innovation in Teaching Core Patient Safety Principles to Third-Year Medical Students*, novice healthcare providers utilize a framework called "SAFE" to help them identify safety concerns, take action, analyze the safety concern, and summarize the results of patient outcome (Beekman et al., 2019). By identifying safety concerns adequately, students could formulate solutions to prevent similar occurrences

Research

Priorities for further study regarding patient safety education would be to format the competencies with different methods of learning incorporated to ensure that the material can be fully comprehended no matter the students' learning styles. Effective learning methods include simulations and engaging stories. Simulations provide a safe space for students to make mistakes without causing any actual harm. Analogies help clarify complex subjects. Learning practices can be improved by frequently assessing the material taught and identifying any gaps of knowledge (Howley et al., 2020).

Conclusion

The purpose of Quality Improvement is to ensure the enforcement of protocols regarding patient safety, to constantly assess and improve healthcare strategies, identify knowledge gaps,

and keep open communication with the healthcare team to reduce preventable harm. Patient safety relies on nurses' compliance in upholding the guidelines and regulations concerning quality care. Factors that affect a nurse's compliance include the patient, the task, the work environment, organization, and management. A nurse's ability to provide quality patient care is evidenced by correctly identifying risks and upholding safety regulations when assessing patients' individual needs. Quality care includes personalizing their care plan, purposefully and routinely monitoring their progress, offering assistance when needed, and keeping open communication with their healthcare team. Patient safety is significant in ensuring the highest quality of care is given to each patient and maintaining vigilance when it comes to identifying potential health risks to minimize patient harm (Vaismoradi et al., 2020).

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