

Medication Errors from A Nurses' Viewpoint: Quality Improvement

Rebekah Moutria

Lakeview College of Nursing

Dr. Ariel Wright

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Medication errors are a significant risk among the pediatric population. Medication dosages based on age, weight, body surface area, and clinical conditions within the pediatric population leave room for potential medication errors and safety risks. The responsibility for these errors falls primarily on nurses because nurses are the primary administrators compared to doctors, pharmacists, or other healthcare professionals. Nurses' perspectives can help develop effective prevention strategies to reduce medication errors.

Quality improvement aims to assess and determine needed improvements within specific healthcare settings to improve outcomes. The QSEN quality improvement competencies discuss how skills, attitudes, and knowledge can affect quality improvement in health care settings by designing and testing changes (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). Demonstrating appreciation for continuous quality improvement in the daily work setting and valuing others' roles and contributions shows an attitude supporting the overall concept of quality improvement (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). Regarding skills, nurses can aid in identifying gaps between best practice and current practice and using methods to evaluate the efficiency of changes (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). Knowledge plays a significant role in quality improvement by allowing nursing students and other healthcare professions to recognize the ability to change the care process and affect patient and family outcomes (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4).

The topic selected discusses the high occurrence of medication administration errors within the pediatric population. Although there have been multiple attempts to reduce medication errors in the pediatric setting, such as barcoding and to provide additional education, effective

and sustainable solutions for these errors have not been resolved (Alomari et al., 2018). Because nurses spend a majority of their shift administering various medications, this puts them at high risk of involvement in medication administration errors (Alomari et al., 2018). There is potential to improve the safety of medication administration with the utilization of designing and testing of changes through quality improvement methods. Overall, there will be better outcomes for our patients, their treatment, and their safety.

Article Summary

Introduction

This study outlines the current workplace culture of medication practice in a pediatric unit. For three consecutive weeks, data collection included four focus groups of participating nurses to explore their adherence to policies and the care they provided. The data reveals that interactions of the work culture, regulatory environment, management policies and procedures, and physical environment influence medication safety. In addition, these factors affect a nurse's compliance with policies and guidelines (Alomari et al., 2018). The sole purpose of this study is to explore nurses' perceptions of the factors influencing the medication process (Alomari et al., 2018). Considering nurses' knowledge, attitudes, and skills when creating preventative strategies combines the purpose of this article and quality improvement.

Overview

Finding strategies to reduce the number of medication errors and provide safe care in pediatric units goes hand in hand with the idea of quality improvement. Regarding the attitude aspect of QSEN competencies, the research article heavily focuses on the value of nurses' perspectives and contributions to outcomes in the healthcare system. The researchers recognize

that nurses are at the highest risk for making medication errors which fall back on their knowledge and skills (Alomari et al., 2018). The article addresses that a nurse's job performance can be affected by high patient acuity, interruptions, and lack of resources (Alomari et al., 2018). Considering nursing skills are impacted by these factors ties in with the idea of quality improvement by using quality measures to understand performance (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4).

Quality Improvement

The utilization of quality improvement efforts could benefit pediatric care settings and other high-stress nursing jobs (Alomari et al., 2018). Using bedside nurses as a resource during pre-implementation would be a great start. Engaging bedside nurses as essential participants, considering their perspectives, and allowing them to share ideas on reducing medication errors can guide the process towards success. During the intra-stage, the utilization of educational resources would be beneficial. Retraining nurses and other healthcare professionals on medication policies and guidelines can aid in reducing medication administration errors as it reinforces and updates the skills and knowledge of each healthcare worker (Alomari et al., 2018). In the post-implementation stage, evaluation of the changes will ensure improvement has occurred. Resources such as employee surveys, interviews, and patient satisfaction surveys can aid in noticing the success of quality improvement efforts.

The suggested change would improve patient satisfaction by increasing their safety and level of care. Nurse satisfaction would increase by decreasing the stress and workload of nurses. If nurses receive updated, frequent training, a sustainable patient load, and a less hectic work environment, they are at less risk of performing medication administration errors (Alomari et al., 2018). With a decrease in medication errors, institutions will benefit financially by reducing

liabilities and wasting medications or other medical products. Patient and nurse safety will increase due to the reduction of medication administration errors, proper documentation of missed doses, and reporting of all errors (Alomari et al., 2018).

Application to Nursing

Here add in a summary of the information learned to the application to practice. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com. Be sure to cover all aspects within the rubric. Be sure to use double space and to tab over for your first line of a new paragraph.

Practice

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to practice. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Education

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to education. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Research

Paragraph goes here discussing the application of research. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Conclusion

Write a conclusion here in your overall paper. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

References

Alomari, A., Wilson, V., Solman, A., Bajorek, B., & Tinsley, P. (2018). Pediatric nurses' perceptions of medication safety and medication error: A mixed methods study. *Comprehensive Child & Adolescent Nursing*, 41(2), 94–110. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694193.2017.1323977>

QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN Competencies*.

https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality_improvement