

Nursing Recognition of a Clinical Decline in Pediatric Patients: Quality Improvement

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Quality Improvement in healthcare serves as the framework for optimizing health system performance and aims to improve the patient experience by focusing on safe, effective, and proficient patient-centered care. Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) utilizes the comprehension, active practice, and attitudes of practicing nurses to improve the performance of heavily implemented nursing methods and skills. Quality Improvement uses “data to monitor the outcomes of care processes and use improvement methods to design and test changes to continuously improve the quality and safety of health care systems” (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). Quality Improvement shapes better nursing diagnoses and recognition of patients altering conditions, using tools and measurements to evaluate the performance and values, and creating suitable work environments for expanding patient care. Nurses must stay attentive when interacting with critical pediatric patients to prevent and recognize signs or symptoms of further clinical deterioration. Recognizing these signs can hinder such adverse complications that could shunt more minor patients into life-threatening conditions, or death, at a faster rate.

Article Summary

Introduction

The article aimed to explore nurses’ inspection methods of hospitalized pediatric patients and fixate on which non-measurable signs and symptoms nurses consider essential when identifying which inpatient pediatric patients are at risk for clinical worsening. The article conducted an interpretive description qualitative study harnessing data obtained through observing Danish pediatric nurses in practice and synonymously conducting focus group interviews (Rørbech et

al., 2022). The article contributes to the development of nurses recognizing clinical retrogression in pediatric patients by conducting a qualitative study.

Overview

The research article identifies how nurses could improve their priority observations and assessment skills at the bedside to recognize signs of pediatric clinical deterioration. The researchers in the article utilized the Pediatric Track and Trigger tools as a foundational measurement for comprehending the advantages are a nurse's clinical judgment and awareness of the unit (Rørbech et al., 2022). The observational methods used and their relation to the measurement tools describe the QSEN skills seen in active practice that uses quality measures to understand good performance (QSEN Institute, 2020). Additionally, the researchers observed the nurses' care situations, informal dialogues between families and interdisciplinary teams, and impressions from interacting with hospitalized patients during around-the-clock shifts (Rørbech et al., 2022). Observations of these personal impressions conducted by researchers highlight QSEN's attitudes and behavior techniques of nurses as it contributes to the outcome of care in that local setting (QSEN Institute, 2020).

Quality Improvement

Upon reviewing the article, executing this type of care setting and shift in nursing assessments in all areas with pediatric units can aid the quality and health of many. With this deviation, hospitals would need to educate nurses about common signs and symptoms of how acute and drastic clinical failure appears in pediatric patients' pre-implementation. During the change, nurses will benefit from intermittent follow-ups and progress notes. Post-implementation

can allow nurses to unload the daily observations and confirm any goals met with a quality improvement advisor, along with discussing future adjustments. Institutions conducting these studies and making appropriate changes would not be financially affected because there are no financial requirements. However, there would be an increase in nursing safety because nurses will become more accustomed to noticing potential physiological dangers in pediatric patients, subsequently boosting patient and nurse satisfaction levels.

References

QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN competencies*.

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

Rørbech, J. T., Jensen, C. S., Dreyer, P., & Herholdt-Lomholdt, S. M. (2022). Beyond objective measurements: Danish nurses' identification of hospitalized pediatric patients at risk of clinical deterioration – A qualitative study. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 66, e67–e73.

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