

**Quality Improvement Related to Prevention of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract
Infections**

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Quality improvement ensures that health care systems and organizations uphold the same structure and standards. Upholding all health care systems to the same standards reduces variation and improves overall patient care outcomes. According to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Competencies of Quality Improvement (2022), knowledge identifies specific components within a health system and their impact on quality patient outcomes. The purpose of the QSEN Competencies of Quality Improvement emphasizes the importance of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors and how they play into patient-centered care. Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) are a known issue within the health care system. Quality improvement is why hospitals can lower their catheter-associated infection rate. Decreasing the catheter-associated infection rate is essential to keep patients safe and increase overall patient-centered care.

Article Summary

The following article entails the importance of infection control in preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Due to nurses being the primary healthcare workers inserting and maintaining indwelling catheters, ensuring they have proper knowledge is essential. To prevent infection, nurses must follow the available guidelines, protocols, and standards during catheter insertion and care (Teshager et al., 2022). This study touches on nursing ethics, infection control, quality improvement, educational resources, and more to ensure quality patient care is received.

Introduction

This article is about catheter-associated urinary tract infections and the quality improvement strategies to eliminate these infections. The article emphasizes nurses' knowledge, practice, and associated factors towards preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Prevention of catheter-associated UTIs impacts nursing practice by educating nurses and healthcare workers about the detrimental effects of improper infection control (Teshager et al., 2022). Without effective infection control, quality healthcare delivery is impossible

Overview

This article significantly impacts nursing practice by ensuring nurses abide by the nursing code of ethics. The four primary principles of ethics; are autonomy, beneficence, justice, and non-maleficence. Not implementing infection control means the nurses and healthcare staff were not abiding by the code of ethics, and the patient was not receiving quality care. More than half of the nurses causing CAUTIs lacked knowledge and practice regarding urinary tract infection prevention and sterile catheter insertion (Teshager et al., 2022). The data provided by this article indicates the need for QSEN Competencies of Quality improvement to better patient-centered care. This study introduces quality improvement plans related to proper infection control and patient care. Therefore, nurses' knowledge through appropriate educational programs and training on device-associated infection prevention helps prevent catheter-associated UTIs.

Quality Improvement

This article specifically studied the effects of catheter-associated urinary tract infections within a hospital's intensive care unit. More often than not, one would see indwelling catheters

used in an inpatient hospital setting. Though this is typically the norm, these quality improvement methods should be in any setting where a patient has an indwelling catheter. According to Meddings et al., (2019), the best prevention of CAUTIs is encouraging the use of alternatives to indwelling catheters, ensuring proper aseptic catheter insertion and maintenance, prompting the removal of unnecessary catheters, and implementing frequent urine cultures (Teshager et al., 2022). Indwelling catheter use is unnecessary unless all other interventions are unsuccessful and truly necessary. Before using an indwelling catheter, nurses must know all the protocols and guidelines for inserting, maintaining, and removing a catheter. Education is taught in nursing school, by preceptors, continuing education at the hospital, and more (Teshager et al., 2022). Proper hand hygiene and maintaining a sterile field are two of the most significant components of preventing infection during insertion. While the catheter is in, all healthcare personnel must maintain proper cleaning and maintenance. Implementing these quality improvement plans will increase patient safety and satisfaction by upholding the nurse's oath to "do no harm." Changing the narrative on preventing CAUTIs should not cost the hospital; lowering infection rates decreases costs by shortening hospital stays, not using as many medications, and more.

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

The proper nursing practice for preventing CAUTIs is using alternatives to indwelling catheters. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), perform hand hygiene immediately before and after insertion; only an educated person should be responsible for insertion and maintenance, use of a sterile field on insertion, and routine cleansing. The CDC advises that nurses practice by proper guidelines and protocols and engage in continual routine education.

Education

Education is a vast part of infection control due to guidelines constantly changing to better patient safety. Nurses must abide by their facilities' criteria when dealing with urinary catheter use. Increasing the knowledge of nurses through appropriate educational programs and training on the preventive measures of device-associated infections was recommended to prevent catheter-associated UTIs (Teshager et al., 2022). According to the CDC, healthcare personnel and others who take care of catheters receive periodic in-service training regarding techniques and procedures for urinary catheter insertion, maintenance, and removal. Hospitals should provide education about CAUTI, other complications of urinary catheterization, and alternatives to indwelling catheters.

Research

Education and infection control standards are priority interventions for preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Exploring alternative methods for indwelling catheters and interventions for urinary retention is also advisable. Overall, the priority is to figure out ways to ensure the patient receives the best quality care.

Conclusion

Overall, the main point of this article is to inform readers of how common yet preventable catheter-associated urinary tract infections are. Implementing the QSEN Competencies of Quality Improvement identifies the specific issues within the healthcare system and how they negatively affect patient care. The QSEN Competencies enable healthcare providers to follow standards that uphold a positive patient experience. CAUTIs are a known issue within the healthcare field and significantly impact nursing practice. CAUTIs may lengthen hospital stays, increase mortality risk, and cause a financial burden on the patient and hospital. Nurses uphold themselves to a specific standard and take an oath to provide the best care possible. Without healthcare workers following protocol and abiding by specific standards, infection control would not be as significant, and patient safety would be at risk.

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