

Quality Improvement for Pain Management in Primary Care

Karlie Roberts

Lakeview College of Nursing

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Professor Shelby Bosch

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Quality improvement refers to the systematic and continuous efforts to enhance healthcare services' effectiveness, safety, efficiency, and patient-centered care. The Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) initiative aims to prepare nurses with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to improve healthcare quality. The quality improvement initiative focuses on equipping nurses to participate in continuous improvement to ensure safe and high-quality care. This implementation requires continuous commitment, collaboration, and a culture of ongoing learning and improvement. The pain management initiative can ensure that patients receive appropriate and effective pain relief, while minimizing the risk of opioid misuse and improving overall patient outcomes. It is necessary to improve the quality and safety of the healthcare system (Embry et al., 2020).

Article Summary

The opioid crisis in the United States has been uphill in recent years. The opioid crisis is closely related to ineffective pain management. This results in a very high increase of opioids prescribed, opioid misuse, diversion, addiction, illegal use of opioids, and opioid-related overdose deaths. Multiple state governments and healthcare systems have started restricting how individuals are prescribed opioids. They have also had an increase in identifying addiction and getting those who need help the help they want and the treatment they need (Embry et al., 2020).

Introduction

The quality improvement initiative for pain management practices in primary care is closely related to nursing and patient advocacy. Pain management is a critical aspect of nursing

practice, and nurses play a vital role in advocating for effective pain relief for their patients. Nurses can ensure that pain management practices in primary care settings are evidence-based, patient-centered and promote optimal patient outcomes by engaging in quality improvement initiatives. Effective pain management is essential to nursing practice (Embry et al., 2020).

Overview

Nursing focuses on patient care, and effective pain management is vital to the job. Nurses are often the frontline workers who provide, monitor and care for patients. Monitoring pain levels, collaborating with the patient's healthcare team, administering medications, and providing non-pharmacological interventions are used to alleviate pain. Another aspect of nursing practice is educating patients and their families about effective pain management strategies and how to advocate for their rights to receive adequate pain relief. When relating effective pain management in primary care to The Quality and Safety Education for Nurses, all healthcare workers must enhance their skills and knowledge to deliver the appropriate care (Ochoa, 2022). The initiative focuses on educating healthcare workers to provide high-quality, safe, patient-centered care. Quality improvement strongly emphasizes continuously improving all aspects of healthcare practices based on evidence and patient outcomes.

Quality Improvement

The quality improvement initiative for pain management in primary care can be in many settings. These settings can include primary care clinics, community health centers, outpatient rehabilitation centers, hospitals, and urgent care (Embry, 2020). Research and evidence-based guidelines would engage healthcare professionals, administrators, and patients during the pre-implementation stage. Then develop a plan that includes the goals, strategies, and timeline. In the

intra-implementation stage, training, and education for healthcare providers would become available to enhance their knowledge and skills in pain management. Implementing protocols and guidelines for pain assessments, treatment, and monitoring would begin. Establishing data collection, tracking, and reporting would need to be started to have ongoing support and feedback to all involved in the implementation stage. During the post-implementation stage, they analyze data to assess outcomes, regular evaluations, and audits, providing ongoing education and training for all healthcare providers to remain competent. Ensuring the necessary resources for pain assessments, medications, and non-pharmacological interventions all are part of the post-implementation stage (MacGillivray, 2020). These stages will facilitate the successful implementation and sustainability of the quality improvement initiatives for pain management in primary care, along with patient satisfaction, nursing satisfaction, increasing patient safety, and increasing nursing safety.

Application to Nursing

The quality improvement initiative for pain management practices in primary care aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of pain management in primary care settings. The initiative highlights the importance of conducting and incorporating research into practice (Ochoa, 2022). Implementing practice, education, and research are vital in improving patient outcomes with evidence-based strategies and guidelines to promote better pain management practices.

Practice

Several strategies can be effective regarding quality improvement initiatives for pain management in primary care. One strategy is implementing a comprehensive pain assessment.

Thoroughly assessing pain allows healthcare providers to understand the nature, intensity, and impact of pain on the patient. Another essential strategy is monitoring and reassessing pain regularly. By doing this, it can evaluate the effectiveness of pain management interventions, make the necessary changes, and identify any issues. Another strategy is educating patients about pain management options and expectations. Doing this allows the patient to participate in their care actively, make informed decisions, and have realistic expectations regarding their pain control (Dowel et al., 2022). The best practices and strategies for quality improvement in pain management must evolve. Staying current with current research, guidelines, and practices is crucial for all nurses and healthcare providers involved in pain management in primary care settings.

Education

It is crucial to stay current with the most current and authoritative sources for accurate information. Assessing healthcare providers' current knowledge and practice through surveys, self-assessment tools, and interviews to understand their knowledge baseline and identify improvement areas can identify those areas of improvement and focus on specific areas that need improvement to maximize the initiative's impact. Developing evidence-based research can provide factual material for the staff with the most compelling evidence. Doing this will provide scientific research and the best practices to increase the likelihood of staff adopting effective pain management strategies in their practice (Shafi et al., 2018). Combining the two mentioned educational guidelines with training sessions can be very beneficial. Having the healthcare providers be engaged in discussions and training sessions allows them to share their experiences and knowledge and learn from each other. Thereby improving one's understanding can be applied to pain management practices. Education is imperative in healthcare, so staying up to

date with the most current guidelines and evidence is essential for providing the best care possible for the best patient outcomes.

Research

There are several priorities for further study regarding the quality improvement initiative for pain management in primary care. Some of the most critical priorities include the effectiveness and safety of pain management interventions, assessment tools and protocols, patient-centered approaches, education, and training, interprofessional collaboration, and access to healthcare (Shafi et al., 2018). By addressing these priorities through research, nursing professionals can contribute to improving pain management practices in primary care, ensuring patient-centered care, evidence-based research, and unbiased care. These priorities can help enhance patient outcomes and improve the overall quality of care.

Conclusion

Developing a quality improvement initiative for pain management practices in primary care is crucial. The quality improvement initiative for pain management practices in primary care is closely related to patient advocacy. Nursing focuses on providing patient care, and effective pain management is vital. The quality improvement initiative for pain management in primary care can occur in many settings. The quality improvement initiative for pain management practices in primary care aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of pain management in primary care settings. A thorough pain assessment allows healthcare providers to understand pain's nature, intensity, and impact on a patient's life (Dowel et al., 2022). Implementing these changes allows patients to engage and participate in their care, make informed decisions, and set realistic expectations regarding pain control. There are a few guidelines that could aid in

educating staff members. Assessing the current knowledge and practice of the healthcare team members pertains to pain management in primary care. Some important priorities include the effectiveness and safety of pain management interventions, assessment tools and protocols, patient-centered approaches, education, training, interprofessional collaboration, and access to healthcare (Shafi et al., 2018). Addressing these priorities will help with further research, and the healthcare team and system can continue to contribute to improving pain management in primary care. By actively engaging in quality improvement initiatives, nurses can ensure that pain management practices are carried out in primary care settings and promote optimal patient outcomes.

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