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N442 Population and Global Health

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1. How does this clinical site relate to Population/Global Health?

This nurse student attended the clinical in Accolade Healthcare in Danville, Illinois. Accolade Healthcare is a skilled nursing facility providing long-term, short-term, and hospice care. There is a possibility of obtaining respite care in this institution. Patients admitted to Accolade come from a neighboring hospital to rehabilitate after injuries, surgeries, or diseases. The capacity of the place is 108 patients. Accolade provides therapy like wound treatment, trach care, G-tube care, and medication administration. The patients are cared for by CNAs, LPNs, RNs, and nurse practitioners. All this solid evidence that Accolade is related to population and health.

2. How were you an engaged nursing professional during these clinical experiences?

This nursing student shadowed RN Courtney, minimum data set coordinator (MDS). Courtney explained what is the scope of her practice as MDS. It was exciting to acquire this knowledge. MDS checks patients' charts daily, reads all new nurses' notes on patients, and looks

for daily changes like falls, infections like UTIs, pain, refusal of treatment, new wounds, or signs of depression. These events may require changes in the care plans. A new wound must be reported to the wound nurse to be checked. Patients with signs of depression are tested. If they have 10 points on a scale of 0-27, they are considered depressed. Lightly depressed patients are connected with social workers to visit them weekly or biweekly. More serious cases of depression are connected with psychiatric services to be medicated. Other functions of MDS are monitoring patients' care and well-being, developing goals for improving treatment and care plans and helping with patients' discharge.

3. How did you or could you contribute to the service of the community through this clinical site?

This student's contribution was possible only by shadowing and learning how the things work in this clinical site. It was a great experience. Also, this student participated in a Care-plan meeting attended by the whole staff. This was a very educative moment to learn who are the staff members and their function. Also, this student talked to a person who discharges patients home and to a person who admits patients in Accolade. For a discharge, first NP/MD writes order for that. Every patient has its folder with a discharge check list. This list contains date of leaving, where the patient goes, does he have or he needs equipment like walker, wheelchair, Accu-Chek machine and other. After being discharged the patient still gets help from a nursing team with community search and appointments. To be admitted, the patient has to be referred by the hospital/ case manager. The patient has to have

skilled needs like wound care, IV AB, PT. The admitting director checks patients background like criminal past and checks insurances before the patient gets in.

4. Name three ways this clinical site impacts community health?

Accolade affects community health in many ways. There are three examples of that. First, this clinical site helps patients to heal using medical services and become maximum healthy and strong enough to live independently after they are discharged home. Second, if patients still need some more help at home to get better and cannot stay in the institution any more, Accolade Healthcare will connect them with home services like PT, OT, or home health nursing. This way they can proceed with exercise and other activities at home until they are completely healed. Third way to help patients is to give them information/telephone numbers for other services they may need. For example, patients may need wheel chair, commode, ramp to get in or out of the house. They can also get some education on what to do further on.

5. Name one way this clinical site could better serve the community and why?

Accolade Healthcare could better serve the community if more members of the community could be included in its service at more affordable prices. Unfortunately, only those with insurance like Medicare or Medicaid can be served in this place, or if they can afford to pay full price for services. The Accolade services are expensive and

go between 7,000-8,000\$ per month. Even Medicare and Medicaid insurance have certain limitations for how many days they will be covered. On the other hand, this clinical site does many good things for the Danville area. Accolade accepts veteran benefits. Veterans can be transferred from the veteran hospital to stay long-term or short-term and get hospice. Also, according to nurse Courtney, sometimes homeless persons are even accepted to stay if they come from the hospital until they can be placed in the home. Sometimes, they stay up to 6-8 months in Accolade.

6. What health risks are experienced by the population served by this clinical site?

The most common health risks in this clinical site are falls, infections, and long-term immobility that leads to pressure ulcers and osteoporosis. Falls are common because the population in this clinical site is older and has weaknesses, as well as vision and balance problems. According to nurse Courtney, most of the falls do not cause an injury. Those falls need only an incident report. If the injury occurs and the patient cannot walk after that, these incidents must be reported to the state. Infections are also a widespread problem at this clinical site. Many patients have wounds where bacteria can grow. Some infections are caused by having indwelling catheters, causing UTIs, which can progress into sepsis.