

Quality Improvement in Nursing

Samjhana Rai

Lakeview College of Nursing

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Professor Whisman

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QSEN Competencies and Quality Improvement

Quality improvement is a systematic process of upgrading the healthcare delivery system by continually observing, examining, and refining care cycle activities. In nursing practice, quality improvement can be defined as the intentional use of data-driven approaches to identify areas for improvement and implement evidence-based interventions to assess their impact and ensure optimal patient care. The Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) initiative incorporates quality improvement directly into its set of six core competencies, making quality improvement a central notion in nursing performance and education. The QSEN Institute defines quality improvement competency as the ability of nurses to monitor the results of care processes using data and to design and test changes using improvement methods to improve the quality and safety of healthcare systems continually. QSEN utilizes quality improvement as a means of enhancing patient outcomes through systematic strategies that involve nurses at various levels of

practice, particularly by focusing on the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle as a primary strategy for change testing and implementation in healthcare settings.

Article Summary

The aim of the research study by AlRatrouf et al. (2024) was to investigate the impact of a QSEN competency program on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of Palestinian junior nurses from the Palestinian Ministry of Health. This was a quasi-experimental study with a sample of 164 junior nurses, utilizing a pre-test/post-test design to evaluate the effectiveness of an organized QSEN education intervention. The intervention group consisted of a detailed 4-hour QSEN competencies program that incorporated various teaching methods, in contrast to the control group, which received no intervention. The participants exhibited statistically significant growth in knowledge (57%), skills (57%), and attitudes (64%) after the educational intervention, all of which were statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The study suggests that structured QSEN education is capable of yielding quantifiable gains in nursing practice proficiencies, which is particularly interesting to healthcare organizations that have implemented quality improvement initiatives.

References

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