Nursing Fellowship in Quality and Patient Safety

Enhancing the Role Bedside Nurses Play in Quality Improvement

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The purpose of developing a Fellowship Program was to provide for depth and excellence in patient care and quality outcomes in nurses at the bedside. Applications are accepted from each nursing division which includes a written proposal.

The program is managed in several ways including: daily reviews, overall program evaluation and feedback to bedside nurses and leadership. This overall evaluation and recommendations are presented to the fellowship participants and nursing leadership.

At the end of the fellowship, the nurses are able to articulate what they have learned as well as their observations and recommendations for moving forward in their role as unit quality representatives. The overall perspective gained from the program is that communication is the path to change and representation of bedside nurses is essential to the quality improvement process.

Why nurses need to be involved in Healthcare Quality

- Nurses are pivotal to hospital quality improvement
- "Owner Effect" - Participation of patient experience
- The role and influence of nurses in quality improvement is increasing
- Hospitals are challenged in their support of nurses in quality improvement champions
- Nurses provide bedside leadership
- Implement quality and patient safety culture
- Rapid turnaround
- Identify interventions that decrease risk to patients from procedures
- Facilitate safety reporting and incident reporting
- Hospitals need data-driven decision making
- Risk assessment/identification strategies need to be ongoing and consistent
- Quality improvement methodologies in healthcare is a learned skill

STAFF NURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Attend hospital quality meetings
- Develop a monthly unit-specific report
- Participate in hospital wide quality initiatives
- Attend scheduled "Spotlight" programs
- Distribute a written review of previous month's focus topic to all unit staff
- Complete an FYA questionnaire and action plan to attend a Clinical Ethics Review Process case presentation.

- Nurses have significant and continual improvement initiatives in their work units.
- Nurses may use data to identify trends of developments in action plans and evaluate quality improvement initiatives.
- Developing an idea for a quality improvement project or initiative that can be applied to a clinical service.
- Communication and the fellowship program content will be utilized in the clinical setting to nursing leadership.

Staff Nurse Impressions

- Where nurses work is the foundation of the hospital structure
- How regulatory agencies hold hospitals accountable for quality care
- Role of quality departments in the overall operation of the hospital
- How different departments work together on quality projects
- Importance of standardization of care
- Impact of revised CMS guidelines on cost and reimbursement
- How the FYA process focuses on risk reduction strategies
- How BCA of sentinel events improves quality and patient safety

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