

Perspective

The Relation between Nurse Staffing and Patient Safety

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DESCRIPTION

The very first approach to reducing the risk of medical errors is to understand patient safety in nursing. The Institute of Medicine has defined patient safety as "the prevention of harm to patients." Others have expanded on this description, emphasizing the need of promoting patient safety through the development of a care delivery system that focuses on preventing and learning from errors. Evidence-based outcomes will be used to consistently improve patient safety protocols and develop an enduring culture of learning and improvement in a strong, successful patient safety approach. Nurses are an important part of every hospital's patient safety measures. Nurses get the most patient contact of any healthcare practitioner; they constantly monitor their illnesses, give medication, and provide self-care and discharge information to patients. Because nurses interact with patients on a daily, if not hourly, basis, improving their capacity to provide accurate, high-quality care is critical to the success of any comprehensive patient safety approach. While nurses play an important role in patient safety, they are not the only ones. Patient safety must be considered as a team effort in which hospital management, doctors, and physician assistants are all equally involved. Meaningful, measurable progress will only be realized when all healthcare workers commit to decreasing medical errors.

Insufficient manpower and evil employment conditions place a strain on health-care professionals, increasing the risk of unfavorable patient safety events such as diagnostic or drug administration errors. Nurses are one of the first lines of defense in the face of such occurrences. Nurses also engage with other medical professionals on a frequent basis, such as physicians, pharmacists, radiologists, and others, putting them in a unique position to affect patient safety across the whole continuum of care. Nurses are responsible for a wide range of tasks that directly affect patient safety. Monitoring a patient's status, identifying and reporting changes in a patient's state, detecting diagnostic and treatment errors, and giving drugs are just a few of the responsibilities. Each is an important part of nursing care. Patient safety is one of a nurse's most important tasks, and she can do so in a variety of ways.

The healthcare condition of a patient could change in the matter of seconds; therefore nurses must be ready to spot any difficulties that occur promptly. Nurses' patient monitoring abilities are considerably improved by continuing education, which helps them better comprehend the intricacies of wound progression, pressure ulcers, and other bedside conditions so they may recognize difficulties before they become problematic. Exposure to additional equipment also allows nurses to keep a better eye on their patients. While most hospitals have bedside alarms, technological advancements such as pharmaceutical barcode scanning and laser temperature checks continue to increase the quality of patient monitoring. Physicians, despite their laser focus on a patient's condition, are nonetheless prone to human mistake. Nurses function as an extra set of eyes in the operating room and beyond, ready to call a timeout if the physician makes a mistake, among other things. Nurses must have a thorough awareness of each patient's medical history and whatever procedures they are undergoing in order to assist doctors in avoiding mistakes wherever possible. Nurses will be able to spot potentially dangerous drugs or surgical hazards more easily as a result of this increased understanding.

Almost certainly know how to be personable, how to be curious about other people, how to address them by their first name rather than their professional title, and how to listen to what they say and other communication signals they convey. Being completely self-absorbed, with no capacity for listening or paying attention, is the greatest adversary of being personable. If we work in a caring field, professionalism, it seems to me, should not imply separating oneself from one's clients, customers, or coworkers, but rather finding a way to be more personal and so increase communication and even feel better.

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