

Patients Safety

Article by Snehamol Varghese
BSN-MSN, Texila American University, India
E-mail: snehamolvargheseofficial@gmail.com

Abstract

Patient safety can define as liberty from accidental injury, focusing in the specific processes, working practices and activities in systematic manner those are able to minimize or protect the available risk of harm to patients. This particular topic has become global agenda and various countries such as England, Australia, the USA, Canada and other developed countries have established national bodies to manage and maintain patients' safety. And they are also focusing on nursing profession for the purpose to maintain effective level of safety of patients. Nursing profession plays important role in development and maintenance of safety of patients.

Therefore this coursework has conducted for the purpose to define role of nurses to increase and maintain patients' safety in health care organizations. Role of nursing in health care organizations have defined on behalf of nursing leadership, nursing collaboration and nursing empowerment. Obtained findings have presented that nurse plays important role in the safety of patients and therefore leadership, collaboration and empowerment in the field of nursing are able to enhance safety of patients in significant manner. Leadership of nursing is able to increase patients' safety; further nursing collaboration enhanced team work with other nurses and physicians and also avoids adverse impacts of treatments. Finally empowerment of nursing provides increased and clear information about the patients by nurse to physicians.

Hence all three aspects are important to enhance safety of patients. Healthcare organizations should focus to enhance nursing leadership, collaboration and empowerment for the purpose to achieve better outcomes in health care organization in terms of increased and enhanced safety of patients.

Introductions

Patient safety has defined as a dixa: and delusion of instantaneous understanding that treats positive conceptualizations and leaves others vulnerable to invisibility (Travaglia and Braithwaite, 2009). Further safety of patient has defined as a specific technology of hubris by Jensen, (2008) and according to him it is claim to objectivity that is able to hide the utilization of judgment with the specific significance that assumptions in normative manner are not subjected to debate in common manner. Contribution of social science is essential for patient safety (Fear & Cunégonde, 2015).

The demand for increased and enhanced safety of patients in health care organization has resulted in the movement of safety of patients inhabiting a specific position of higher level of status on the agenda of health care of the developed countries. The patient safety program has introduced by World Health Organization for the purpose to obtain equity with promotion of safety related programs and activities those are able to assess safety of patient to the specific position within emerging and less emerging countries.

Unsafe care is the cause of increasing diseases and this is the reason there is need to effective patient safety for the purpose to maintain health of the people in all across the world. Patient safety has become global agenda and countries such as Australia, Canada, England, Wales and the USA have established national level bodies for the patient safety. Strong and effective safety can maintain by the profession of nursing for the patients (Bargagliotti & Lancaster, 2007). The profession of nursing can explain as the background of safe practice with safety as an integral phase of care. The main aim of this coursework is to define importance of nurse and nursing profession for increased and enhances safety and security of patients.

Questions of this coursework

What is the role of nursing profession in increased and enhanced patient safety?

Identify the leadership of nursing along with empowerment and collaboration of nursing to noticeable impacts on patients' safety?

Definitions

Leadership

Leadership can define as the ability of individual to put influence on others or followers and engage followers as the partners for the purpose to develop and achieve visions in shared manner (Redfern 2008).

Collaboration

Collaboration can define as the specific process that is able to influence front line staff through interactions in respectful manner including exchange of information and establishment of coordination among activities in order to achieve predetermined goals and objectives of an organization (Nembhard et al. 2007).

Empowerment

Empowerment can define as the process in interpersonal manner whereby information in correct manner, available resources and established environment exist, establishment of development of ability of individual and effectiveness for the purpose to achieve predetermined goals and objectives of an organization (Hawks 1992).

Safety of patient

Patient safety can define as liberty from accidental injury, focusing in the specific processes, working practices and activities in systematic manner those are able to minimize or protect the available risk of harm to patients (Department of Health 2004).

Method

In this coursework, secondary research method has adopted for the purpose to address formulated questions. For this purpose, various articles, journals, nursing papers, nursing index of various nations such as British Nursing Index and Elite of Health Business and electronic data bases such as Medline, CINAHL from 2001 to 2012 have used.

All such sources were related with the nursing profession and their role in enhancement of patient safety on behalf of nursing leadership, establishment and maintenance of organizational culture, development of innovation, formulation of effective strategy and making appropriate decision, managing change, communication, collaboration and empowerment within health care environment.

On the other hand nursing and patient safety official website and releases were also reviewed for the purpose to review patient safety and role of nursing in increased and enhanced patient safety (Bargagliotti & Lancaster, 2007).

Findings

Various findings have obtained on behalf of analysis and review of all obtained papers and researches from various nations.

Leadership

Three obtained papers and researches were related with leadership and behaviors and style of nursing those are able to influence patient safety. Obtained results of these papers have stated that considerable relationship has found between the practices of leadership in positive manner and declined occurrence of events in negative manner and also it is able to provide increased satisfaction to patients (Wong & Cummings 2007).

According to Laschinger & Leiter, (2006) the leadership of nursing is able to play important role in generation of situations those enable to increased engagement of followers in their work and increase safety of patients in significant manner.

Leadership of nursing is able to connect the role of nursing leadership with involvement of policy of nursing, enhanced levels of staffing and increased level of support for the model of nursing care and relationship of nurse and physician.

According to Fear & Cunégonde, (2015) higher level of safety of patient has seen with effective leadership of nursing. And this aspect has obtained by Fear & Cunégonde, (2015) on behalf of behalf of conducted primary research within ten hospitals and seventy eight departments of the hospitals. In this research nursing and other staff of hospitals were participated as respondents. Nursing leadership is able to maintain safety within organization and also establish trusted paths of care and also reduce medications errors.

Collaboration

Three papers and researches were emphasized on collaboration of nursing in patient care and safety. Obtained findings have stated that nurses have specialized knowledge and experience and act as team in multidisciplinary manner. Hence nurses are able to enhance safety of patients to avoid occurrence of issues in health care process and also they are able to protect from the harms to patients (Nembhard, Tucker, Horbar & Carpenter, 2007).

Effective contribution provides by effective communication between nurses and physicians. Effective level of communication is able to enhance collaboration of team members in effective manner. And on the other behaviors of nurses is based on sequence of specific works and establishment of communication is able to enhance collaboration with others. Thus it increases teamwork, hence increased teamwork is able to increase and enhance safety of patients (Simpson et al. (2006).

Outcomes of patients influence by factors of organization and it can measure on behalf of data of hospital on falls, ulcers pressure, infections of urinary, mortality, specific length of stay and failure of staff in rescue. For the purpose to analyze this particular factor, various units of hospitals were analyzed and investigated for the six month time along with the survey of employees of hospitals. Obtained findings have concluded that role of nurse is important for the purpose to establish collaboration between physicians and nurses for the purpose to prevent various negative impacts of diseases and treatments on patients. Thus collaboration nurses are able to enhance safety of patients in higher manner (Boyle, 2004).

Empowerment

The perception of nurses towards challenges to deliver care in safe manner has reflected by Currie & Watterson (2007). Obtained findings have stated that effective flow of information such as past and present situation of patients and regular monitoring of patients conduct by nurses, establishment of accurate environment of health care in terms of proper care to patients as per their requirements and needs of patients. Hence all such aspects are able to maintain effective level of care within health care organizations. Thus nurses play important role in the increased patient safety but also they maintain safety of patients in effective manner.

Discussions

Research on patients' safety has reflected the situation of role of nurses in the maintenance of safety of patient. Various papers have been analyzed for the purpose to define patient safety within health care organizations and obtained findings have suggested that nurses play important role in maintain effective level of safety of patients in health care organizations. Nurses have specialized knowledge and experience to manage patients and their needs and requirements for the purpose to conduct treatment in effective manner. Safety of patients influences by leadership of nursing, collaboration of nursing and empowerment of nurses (Wollin & Fair-weather 2007).

For this purpose various papers were analyzed from different fields for the purpose to define patients' safety. Patients' safety is national agenda of each and every nation and therefore it has become agenda of global world. Safety of patient can maintain by establishment of nursing profession at national level in effective manner. Thus there is need to enhance profession of nursing for the purpose to increase and enhance patients safety at national level (Happell, 2007).

Conclusion

Obtained findings have stated that nursing profession in terms of nursing behaviors and styles play important role for the purpose to increase and enhance safety of patients. Role of nurses in patients' safety has analyzed and examined by nursing leadership, nursing collaboration and nursing empowerment. Thus obtained results have stated that nursing leadership is able to enhance safety of patients. On the other hand nursing collaboration is able to enhance teamwork of nurses and physicians in order to provide effective care that is able to reduce and avoid harmful impacts of diseases and treatment. Empowerment of nursing defines nurses play important role in providing information about the patients to physicians, establishment of safe environment of treatment and regular monitoring and reporting. Thus all these three approaches are able to increase and enhance safety and patients.

References

- [1]. Bargagliotti, L.A. & Lancaster, J. (2007) Quality and safety education in nursing: more than new wine in old skins. *Nursing Outlook*, 55, 156–15
- [2]. Boyle, S.M. (2004) Nursing unit characteristics and patient outcomes. *Nursing Economics*, 22 (3), 111–120.
- [3]. Fear W. & Cunégonde C. C., 2015, *The Discourse of Patient Safety: A problematization of the 'taken for granted' in healthcare*
- [4]. Jensen, C. B. (2008). *Sociology, systems and (patient) safety: Knowledge translations in healthcare policy. Sociology of Health and Illness* 30(2): 309-324.
- [5]. Nembhard, I.M., Tucker, A.L., Horbar, J.D. & Carpenter, J.H. (2007) Improving patient outcomes: the effects of staff participation and collaboration in healthcare delivery. *Harvard business school working paper no. 08-002*. Available at: <http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/08-002.pdf> (accessed 1 June 2009).
- [6]. Redfern, L. (2008) The challenge of leadership. *Nursing Management*, 15 (4), 10–12
- [7]. Spence Laschinger, H.K. & Leiter, M.P. (2006) The impact of nursing work environments on patient safety outcomes. *The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 36 (5), 259–267.
- [8]. Travaglia, J. F., & Braithwaite, J. (2009). Analysing the 'field' of patient safety employing Bourdieusian technologies. *Journal of Health Organization and Management* 23(6): 597-609.*
- [9]. Wong, C.A. & Cummings, G.G. (2007) The relationship between nursing leadership and patient outcomes: a systematic review. *Journal of Nursing Management*, 15, 508–521
- [10]. WHO (2008c) *Small Research Grants for Patient Safety*. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.