Purpose of Evidence-Based Practice Project

Utilize different teaching styles to help team members to feel and understand what it is like to “walk in the shoes” of the geriatric patients we serve.

Background/Significance

- Americans 65 and older are projected to more than double by 2060 reaching close to 24% of the total US population (Population Reference Bureau, 2018).
- Over 40% of the inpatient population is age 65 in this setting.
- Service quality scores demonstrate challenges with the nurse communication (Aurora Medical Center Kenosha Inpatient HCAPS scores, 2017).
- Inpatient fall rates are higher for this age.
- Geriatric Resource Nurses (GRNs) noticed gaps in knowledge around care.

Theoretical Model

Sample and Setting

- A 74-bed, full service, community-based hospital that has received recognition as NICHE exemplar facility.
- A not-for-profit integrated health care provider.
- All team members (N=2400) were invited to attend one session.
- Primarily Nursing Staff and other Interdisciplinary team members were present.
- Team members (n=143) enrolled for the course and n=125 attended.

Methods/Application to Practice

- GRNs implemented training that reviewed common conditions in the geriatric population, functional changes that occur with aging, and ways to improve the experience and care for geriatric patients.
- Adult learning principles were used to plan and implement the event (Knowles, M. (1988).
- A pre- and post-survey analyzing the learners’ baseline knowledge of geriatric care and their experience with the session.
- HCAHPS scores for the 65+ population were monitored in the nurse communication domain, focused on nurses explaining things in an understandable way communication (Aurora Medical Center Kenosha Inpatient HCAPS scores, 2017).
- Fall rates were also monitored pre- and post-event.

Findings/Results/Outcomes

- Team member pre- and post-education knowledge score.
- HCAHPS nurse communication scores pre- and post-education.

Conclusions/Implications

- In conclusion, the elderly are a vulnerable population requiring unique considerations to providing quality health care.
- With the advances in medicine leading to longer life expectancies it is imperative to provide quality care with the specific needs of the geriatric population.
- Through service quality measures and data trends, valuable information can be collected on how to improve patient care of the geriatric patient.

References

Aurora Medical Center Kenosha Inpatient HCAPS scores, 2017

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