

Building Relationships Through Simulation

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Keywords

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Professional Issues Poster Presentation

Purpose for the Program

Because of the disparities in rural hospitals with low birth volume, staff often struggle not only to access evidence-based education and training opportunities but also to maintain staff competence. By facilitating multidisciplinary simulation with all levels of staff in rural facilities, we can work at closing the gap.

Proposed Change

Simulation aimed at the learning needs of the specific hospital to improve communication, teamwork, and interventions among the health care team. Scenarios of obstetric emergencies were developed to facilitate these improvements and to develop unit-specific protocols and continued education for staff.

Implementation

After establishing a relationship with rural facilities surrounding the Fort Worth, TX, community, scenarios were developed on the basis of the learning needs of the facility. Simulation scenarios included precipitous delivery, vaginal breech delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, maternal code, shoulder dystocia, newborn resuscitation, malignant hyperthermia, and eclampsia. Simulations occurred on the unit with their supplies and

equipment. Physicians, anesthesia personnel, technicians, and nursing staff were invited to attend. After the real-time simulation, debriefing occurred to discuss learning outcomes and areas of improvement. One week after simulation was completed, participants were asked to complete a survey of their experience.

Outcomes and Evaluation

Our results showed there was improvement in communication, recognition, and knowledge of required interventions. The nurses also reported feeling more confident and competent in responding to obstetric emergencies. During the simulation process, areas for improvement were identified related to medication availability, equipment location and use, and appropriate resources and their availability.

Implications for Nursing Practice

By fostering connections and establishing relationships, we not only educate staff members on obstetric emergencies but also reduce mortality and morbidity for mothers and their infants. Simulation is a useful tool to improve team communication and staff confidence and maintain a systematic approach during emergent situations, all of which result in high-quality care.

“Pause for the Gauze” Accounting System and Innovation in Patient Safety Culture

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Keywords

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Purpose for the Program

This innovation's purpose is to enhance the culture of patient safety and eliminate retained sponges in the labor and delivery unit.

Proposed Change

A hard-wired safety tool is developed to systemize the accounting procedure for surgical items during vaginal deliveries, including a communication protocol and checklist, similar to what is used by high-reliability organizations. A nurse “tool owner” collaborates with frontline clinical ladder nurses to gather data, assess current state, and determine objectives. A partnership with a steering committee that is composed of a multidisciplinary team of stakeholders supports innovation success. The team peer reviews proposed goals and curriculum designed to disseminate information. Review and revision of policy for a perioperative counting procedure are instituted to reflect new practices. All labor and delivery unit nursing staff are trained by nurse champions and are able to demonstrate the

increased knowledge and skills that are acquired during simulation and by direct observation in a patient-care setting. Nurses complete a skills checklist, which validates competency after training and simulation participation. The education of physicians is provided by physician champions, with the purpose of adopting a proposed accounting process and enhancing communication.

Implementation

A variety of evidenced-based teaching methods and leadership strategies led to behavioral changes and sustainability. A framework of andragogy was instituted to include experiential learning and reflection. All staff was provided a LifeWings Teamwork Skills workshop and, in accordance with the “Nothing Left Behind” national patient safety project, a “Pause for the Gauze” sponge-accounting training session. Success was publicized and celebrated to raise awareness and communicate the vision and commitment to patient safety by leadership.

Outcomes and Evaluation

Shift audits demonstrate conformance with key elements. Elimination of retained surgical items is evidenced by zero adverse events for unintentionally retained objects since completion of skills training and competencies.

Implications for Nursing Practice

Standardization of accounting processes and effective communication between clinicians, as highlighted in high-reliability organizations, enhance patient safety. Consequences include improved health outcomes and professional development.

Preparation for Baby-Friendly Designation With Innovative Education Methods

Purpose for the Program

To prepare nursing staff for a Baby-Friendly designation visit using a reeducation method that will engage learners and reignite interest in the project.

Proposed Change

In the past, many educational offerings consisted of PowerPoint lectures. The educators did not feel this would be effective for this content and these learners. An educational activity was planned using an escape-room format.

Implementation

Surveys were conducted to determine knowledge gaps. An educational activity was designed to reinforce knowledge. A pretest was given. The educators of the labor and mom-baby units created an escape-room format to convey important concepts using an innovative method. An escape room requires the participants to solve puzzles to move through the room as a team. Our puzzles used learning points from the identified knowledge gaps. This activity created a scenario of a zombie apocalypse that required new mothers to successfully breastfeed to prevent neonatal transmission of the zombie virus. The team had to work together to answer questions. A correct answer would reveal a clue to unlock the next phase of the room. A posttest assessed knowledge following the activity.

Outcomes and Evaluation

Pre-posttest results were evaluated from three important Baby-Friendly assessment areas. When discussing benefits of rooming-in, learners correctly answered 57% of the questions in the pretest and 84% in the posttest, an increase of 27%. When discussing benefits to hand expression, learners correctly answered 45% of the questions in the pretest and 79% in the posttest, an increase of 34%. When discussing reasons not to use artificial nipples, learners correctly answered 35% of the questions in the pretest and 66% in the posttest, an increase of 33%. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with statements such as, "I liked the interactive format," "It was creative," "It made education fun," "Great way to present topic/skills," "Love the hands on activity," "It was different and kept our interest," "It was great to have information not presented in another lecture, but a more creative way," and "Great learning tool—thanks for the variety."

Implications for Nursing Practice

Reeducation of subject matter can be challenging for educators. This project shows a method that could be used for a variety of subject matter to engage learners and impact long-term retention of knowledge.

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Keywords

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Escape room

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Role of the Perinatal Nurse on a Statewide Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Purpose for the Program

To identify the role of the perinatal nurse as a member of the Statewide Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC). The charge of this committee is to analyze statewide maternal mortality data to identify trends and emerging issues and to generate public health-focused recommendations for preventing maternal deaths.

Proposed Change

With the increase of complex maternal mortality cases in 2015, additional disciplines were added to the review committee, to include anesthesiology, cardiology, family medicine, and perinatal nursing. Perinatal nurses provide the bedside perspective on factors that contributed potentially to a death.

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