Huddle Up: A Touchdown for Patient Safety

Introduction

What is Mindful Organizing?

- Defined as a set of behaviors that collectively enacted detect emerging errors and minimize the adverse consequences of unexpected events
- Organization that allows detection and management of unexpected events
- High Reliability Organization use mindful management
- Continual preoccupation with small errors and failures
- Culture supported by all levels of the organization

Background

Safety huddles apply the theory behind mindful organizing. The idea of huddling the team to discuss quality performance and situations that could lead to errors, then minimize is the premise of the safety huddle. It is a modality to allow staff to remain preoccupied with failure and to plan for unexpected events.

Purpose

To illustrate the effectiveness of daily safety huddles as a catalyst to achieve and maintain performance as it relates to fails, pressure ulcers, infections, pain and nursing satisfaction.

Methods

Sample

- 44 bed adult medical unit, community hospital
- 62 staff RNs, 77% BSN, 9% eligible certified

Procedure-11 am and Midnight gathering of all unit staff to discuss current performance, challenges for the day, and review standards of care.

Measures:

- NDNQI performance on falls, pressure ulcers, CA-BSI, and CA-UTI.
- Pain performance indicated on Picker Patient Experience Data
- RN satisfaction indicated on NDNQI & Moorhead RN satisfaction survey results.

Data/Results

Safety huddles allow RNs to own and to review quality performance. Barriers and challenges to meet exemplary practice are identified and managed with the expertise of the Clinical Nurse Specialist, Manager, and informal staff nurse leaders. Keeping performance and the ability to identify errors and minimize their effects impact quality performance, empowering ownership of nursing practice.

Implications

Simply taking ten minutes per shift yields positive outcomes on the patient safety and staff satisfaction. By being preoccupied with quality of nursing care on a unit, staff are mindful of their patients’ safe passage during the acute care stay.

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