A clinical practice dissertation & its impact on prevention of catheter related bloodstream infections: One student experience.

Paula McCauley DNP ACNP-BC, Associate Dean, Associate Clinical Professor

Abstract

The growing concern for hospital acquired infections in healthcare has stimulated the development of evidence-based practice guidelines. Healthcare institutions across the United States are increasing their focus on the implementation of clinical practice guidelines using current evidence-based practice. Adherence to these guidelines by healthcare professionals is expected to improve the quality, equity, and efficiency of patient care.

A DNP student analysis of the unit’s process identified gaps that were successfully addressed through a quality improvement process that incorporated the application of DNP competencies.

The process implemented an education program targeted at the staff nurses in the ICU, evaluating the current literature and evidence-based practice approach and ongoing tracking of the unit incidence of central line infections 60 days after implementation.

Not only was this program significant for its impact on hospital associated infections but also illustrates the importance and impact of nursing related care on outcomes, incorporating the DNP competencies.

Introduction

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the effectiveness of an evidence-based practice protocol designed to decrease the incidence of catheter related bloodstream infections. A Doctor of Nursing Practice student’s Clinical Practice Dissertation analyzed the unit’s practice, identified gaps and successfully addressed the gaps through a quality improvement process that incorporated DNP competencies.

Theoretical Foundation

Leadership

- Attained role on interdisciplinary team
- IRB approval
- Developed and implemented education program
- Evaluation of outcome
- Dissemination of information through presentation and publication

Evidence Based Practice

- Analysis of unit practice
- Analysis of nurses attitudes toward practice guidelines with survey
- Identified gaps in practice based on current evidence (scrub the hub)
- Addressed gaps with Quality improvement process

Information Technology

- Survey Monkey
- Webinar attendance
- Synthesis of evidence
- Dissemination of information

Policy

- Use of Quality Model (PDSA)

Application

- Survey of Nurses Attitudes Toward Practice Guidelines
- Education program with pre/post test evaluation
- Implementation of practice change
- Evaluation of data
- Dissemination of information to unit, hospital
- Adopted as hospital wide policy
- Publication
- Success!!

Conclusion

Ongoing tracking of the unit incidence of central line infections 60 days after implementation revealed no incidence of infection for those 60 days. Not only was this program significant for its impact on hospital associated infections but it also illustrates the importance and impact of nursing related care on outcomes demonstrated by a Clinical Practice Dissertation and its application of the DNP competencies:

- Health policy
- Evidence based practice
- Information technology
- Theoretical foundation
- Application
- Leadership