UCF College of Nursing

Community and Public Health Practicum for RNs – NUR4604L

Clinical Practice Project Proposal

Problem Statement

In 2016, South Lake Hospital reported 120 fall of which 3 resulted in major injury. There were 51 reported on the Medical Surgical Unit. In-patient hospital falls are a significant clinical, legal, and regulatory problem. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services no longer reimburse hospitals for in-hospital falls with trauma (Hempel et al., 2013). Identifying patients who are risk for falls and the use of fall prevention tools are a crucial part of the reduction of falls. Lack of communication with healthcare team members and non-compliance with the use of color coded fall prevention door signs increase the risk for falls and potential injury to the in-patient population (Coppedge, Conner & Se, 2016).

Project Description

1. Increase staff communication and identification using Morse Fall Scale to identify patients at risk for falls and compliance with the use of color coded fall prevention door signs in comparison to current fall prevention door signs currently in place.
    a. In-service education for nursing and other staff on appropriate identification of patients who are risk for falls and proper use of color coded fall prevention door sign.
        i. Chart review Morse Fall Scale used for identifying patients at risk for falls and spot checks on unit for proper use of color coded fall prevention door signs placed on 8 doors of a 16 bed Medical Surgical Unit.
    b. Project implementation: February 1, 2017- March 15, 2017.

c. Teach nursing and other staff the meaning of Morse Fall Scale scores 45 or greater and assigning appropriate color according to score.
    i. Importance of compliance with appropriate scoring with the use of the Morse Fall Scale and patient specific identification with color coded fall prevention door signs.
    ii. Education will be provided to nursing and other staff through in-service and handouts.
d. Effectiveness of teaching will be evaluated through chart review, spot audits, and reported falls to measure compliance with proper use of color coded fall prevention door signs.

Stakeholders

1. The primary stakeholders are the patients who are at risk for injury related to falls. Other stakeholders directly involved with patient care, include the unit manager, nurses, patient care techs, physical and occupational therapy, and clinical resource nurse. South Lake Hospital will directly benefit from not absorbing the costs related to injury from falls. This change will help increase fall prevention awareness and the reduction of falls.
2. South Lake Hospital
    a. Martha J. DeCesere, RN, MSN, Clinical Resource Nurse
    b. Contact Information
        i. 1900 Don Wickham Drive, Clermont, FL 34711
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Signatures indicate approval of the proposal as listed above. Scan the completed & signed document in the Assignments section of the course for faculty approval.

Host Agency Representative	Student
(Martha J. DeCesere, RN, MSN)	*(Sheryl L. Kyle, RN)*