Nurse Driven Protocols in the Emergency Department

WebQuest Description: ENA position statement in 2015 states, “Early implementation of protocols has been reported to decrease patient length of stay in the emergency department by making diagnostic test results available early, improving patient time to care, and bed availability. Using protocols has also been shown to facilitate the early treatment of pain and decrease delays in critical interventions, such as antibiotic administration for patients with pneumonia and thrombolytic therapy for patients with acute myocardial infarction (ENA, 2015).”

Grade Level: College / Adult
Curriculum: Professional Skills
Keywords: Emergency Department Crowding, Nurse Driven Protocols, Throughput, Emergency Department Flow, Evidenced Based Practice.
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Introduction

Emergency Department crowding has become a national epidemic. Emergency Department crowding is when available Emergency Department resources are less than the demand for services. When Emergency Department (ED) crowding occurs it has been shown to cause increased medical errors and increased mortality. Organizational involvement has increased the understanding and need for change. Some of the organizations concerned with ED crowding are the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Joint Commission. ED crowding is not a new concept it has been studied the last 20 years. This webquest will help the student decide if nurse driven protocols in the ED and triage, which is an evidenced based approach according to literature, helps decrease wait times and increase throughput and result in better patient outcomes.

Tasks

The task for this quest is for you to use the Web to formulate a position either for or against the use of nurse driven protocols in the Emergency Department. Using your research findings you will write a two-three page paper defending your position. Then you will discuss and review your findings in a group setting.

Process

In Phase 1 and Phase 2 you will be working individually in this quest. Phase 3 we will then have a group discussion of your findings and your position on the use of Nurse Driven Protocols in the Emergency Department Phase 1: Please read the three Internet resources listed below using the internet or Excelsior College Library. Blackmore, A. R. (2016). Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating a Nurse-Driven Rapid Reversal Protocol for Patients With Traumatic Intracerebral Hemorrhage in the Presence of Preinjury Warfarin. Journal Of Trauma Nursing, 23(3), 138-143. doi:10.1097/JTN.0000000000000201
http://touroscholar.touro.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=tcomm_pubs
Phase 2: Search the Internet for two additional resources that address the use of nurse driven protocols in the Emergency Department and patient outcomes and write your paper regarding what position you take on use of nurse driven protocols. Write a position paper regarding the use of nurse driven protocols in the Emergency department. Your paper should be at least two to three pages in length (not including the Title Page or Reference List)and in APA format. It will include an introduction that overviews and defines Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment and use of nurse driven protocols, a section that compares and contrasts the pros and cons of nurse driven protocols in the emergency department and patient outcomes. Lastly a section that defends your position regarding the dilemma, and a conclusion that addresses the effect and implications this dilemma has on patient outcomes. To help grading and to make sure all elements are addressed, you should set your paper up using section titles that correspond to the required information listed. Your paper should include the following sections: (Note: These sections may also be used as an outline to help you build your paper). Title Introduction & Nurse Driven Protocols and Patient outcomes in the Emergency Department Position Conclusion Implications

Evaluation

The reference list and all in-text citations must be correctly formatted according to APA 6th Edition Guidelines (see Attachment 1). You must cite the works, ideas, and philosophies from at least five resources (the three assigned Internet resources and at least two additional resources). These references should include scholarly works written by well-regarded authors and researchers. You may not cite websites such as WiseGeek and Wikipedia, and other similar sources; as these are the modern-day equivalent to writing a report out of an encyclopedia. Phase 3: Group discussion on findings and the general position of the class on the use of nurse driven protocols in the Emergency Department.
Protocols: Those that were initiated by RNs before patients were treated by a physician or NP showed evidence that targeting specific patient groups with carefully written protocols can result in improved time to test or medication and, in some cases, reduce ED length of stay. A cooperative and collaborative interdisciplinary group is essential to success. Literature shows positive end results and can happen when nurse driven protocols are used appropriately. Examples are patients scenarios below. In pregnant patients experiencing vaginal bleeding, the protocol reduced median ED length of stay by 232 minutes. In patients with a suspected hip fracture, the protocol reduced median ED length of stay by 224 minutes. In patients presenting with suspected ischemic chest pain, the chest pain protocol decreased time to troponin levels by 79 minutes. In patients presenting with pain or fever, protocols decreased median time to acetaminophen by 186 minutes. The implications for nursing are that appraisals of evidence lead to better practice decisions, protocols can provide greater nursing autonomy and satisfaction, and protocols are able to increase the facilitation of patient care in the emergency department. We as nurses have a duty to remain life long learners and develop practices that will provide our patients better outcomes. We can accomplish this through research, evidence based practice and the desire to be life long learners.

Webquest Focus: This WebQuest focuses on how nurse driven protocols in the emergency department can affect patient outcomes. It investigates the dilemmas of choosing who gets treatment first and who has to wait on a physician to look at them before providing orders for treatment; often the decision can determine life or death.

Standards
Objectives/Goals: I would recommend using this webquest for emergency department internships. This way, the students will have good background knowledge of the evidence based practice behind nurse driven protocols and they should be able to take utilize it in practice. Students will review standard triage processes and how they differ. Students will discover the differences and effects of nurse driven protocols in the emergency department on patient outcomes. Students will address their own position on the use of nurse driven protocols compared to the current standard. Students will discuss in a group setting and find a class consensus on a position.

Resources: Prerequisite Skills: Computer use with the Internet Time Required: 14 days - Assignment will be completed outside of class. Technology Needs/Materials Needed: Students will be working alone for most of the assignment, it is necessary for each student to have a computer, or access to a computer.

Credits
Each student to have a computer, or access to a computer.
Credits: The resources and web links included on this website are external websites and I would like to thank them for creating such useful WebPages. Shutterfly for images and google images. Excelsior College Library

Other

This webquest is geared towards a student centered learning activity. Although articles were listed to review it still has the students research on their own. The amount of articles regarding this subject are plenty. The time the student spends researching allows them to become more confident and independent in their own learning. The group discussion allows communication, argumentation and problem solving and allows the students to bring forth their prior knowledge to share.