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Improving pain management knowledge

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pain is the most commonly presented symptom among patients who are admitted to the emergency department (ED) (Samcam & Papa, 2016). Unfortunately, many barriers impacting patient care and outcomes exists in ED with regard to inadequate pain assessment, reassessment and documentation. According to Akbar (2015) interventions to improve knowledge and practice help nurses to improve pain assessment skills and documentation of pain. Improving pain management knowledge requires more than knowledge acquisition. Based on the review of relevant literature, the need for innovative and effective pain management guidelines for nurses is well documented. As one of the most trusted professions nursing has a tremendous responsibility in providing quality care and outcomes. Thus, the researcher used quantitative methods to examine the knowledge of nurses regarding pain management at Montefiore Nyack Hospital, only bedside nurses from the emergency department were recruited to participate in the study. An evidence based guidelines intervention, created by the Joint Commission (TJC) standards, was implemented in the emergency department to increase compliance and utilization of pain assessment guidelines and policies among nursing staff. Updated policies, pain scales, visual reminders and an electronic health record icon resources were also implemented to ensure nurse compliance with TJC guidelines and policies. A pre and post test survey to measure the knowledge of nurses regarding pain

management through the utilization of the knowledge and attitudes survey regarding pain (KASRP) instrument was used. Also, the quality improvement change project was monitored via prospective chart audits to measure nurses compliance and utilization of pain assessment guidelines.

Biography

Lucia Amendano is a Nurse Practitioner with 14 years of experience in Emergency Department, Occupational Health, Telephone Triage and Management experience. She earned a Bachelor's in Nursing from Suny New Paltz and a Masters in Nursing from Pace University. Her certifications include Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, Board Certified Emergency Nurse, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Advance Trauma Life Support and Advanced Burn Life Support. Her professional poster presentations include tissue plasminogen activator in stroke patients and tools for reducing effects of sitting at work. Her professional nominations/awards include the Rockland County Nurse of Excellence Award Nominee, Nurse Practitioner Exemplary-Extraordinary Work Winner Award, Nursing Excellence Nominee Nyack Hospital and she was inducted to the Omicron Sigma Chapter and Zeta Omega. She is currently completing her practicum for her Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree and is very passionate about influencing nurses to improve pain management knowledge.

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