

March 25-26, 2019
Rome, Italy

Lucia Amendano et al., Int J Anesth Pain Med 2019, Volume 5
DOI: 10.21767/2471-982X-C1-006

Improving pain management knowledge among nurses

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Pain is the most commonly presented symptom among patients who are admitted to the emergency department. Unfortunately, many barriers to pain management exists thereby impacting ED patient care and outcomes, specifically regarding inadequate pain assessment, reassessment and documentation. Thus, the quality improvement project aimed to increase emergency department nurses knowledge of pain management and utilization of pain assessment guidelines, resources and policies. By nurses having adequate education, they can provide timely and efficient care to support patient outcomes, improve patient comfort and improve patient satisfaction. The practice leader used the knowledge and attitudes survey regarding pain (Ferrell & McCaffery, 2014) to conduct a pre and post-test assessment to measure emergency department nurses' knowledge of pain management. There were 30 questions where the answers were either scored as 1 = correct or 0 = incorrect. The answers were added up and the total percent of correct answers were calculated for each of the 23 participants at both pre-intervention and post-intervention. The results of the quality improvement project showed that nurses lacked adequate pain management knowledge, 45.45% of participants responded incorrectly to knowledge questions about pain before the intervention. However, after the project implementation, the results of the

data analysis showed a statistically significant mean increase of 23.91% from pre-intervention (65.65%) to post-intervention (89.56%) after eight weeks of project implementation. This quality improvement project will provide a basis for future studies in improving nurses' pain management knowledge.

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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