Stroke Center & Academic Nursing Collaboration to Improve Patient Outcomes: A Proposed Evidenced-Based Educational Program

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The Problem
- National regulatory continuing education (CE) requirements for US Stroke Centers are challenging to implement given staffing & fiscal constraints
- RNs caring for stroke survivors are mandated to receive annual stroke CE to maintain care proficiency
- There are no baccalaureate nursing educational standards relative to stroke care

Purpose
- To identify a cost-effective, evidence-based curricula & educational strategies for RNs caring for acute stroke patients
- To identify an evidence-based stroke curricula & educational strategies for baccalaureate nursing education

Methods
Design: Pre-test/ post test quasi-experimental design will be used to assess program impact
Sample/Setting: Convenience sample of baccalaureate nursing students & RNs working with acute stroke patients in an academic medical center
Intervention:
- To develop continuing education & baccalaureate nurses' knowledge, skills & attitude (KSAs) curricula
- Offer the curriculum to all stroke RNs required to have CE
- Offer the curriculum module as a component of the adult med-surgical course for baccalaureate nursing students

Data Collection:
- Investigator designed tool to assess stroke KSAs in accordance with regulatory CE requirements
- Tool will be administered before & after the intervention

Data Analysis: descriptive & comparative statistics

Background
Stroke
- More than 795,000 people in the US experience stroke annually
- 5th leading cause of death
- #1 cause of serious long-term disability

Translation of Guidelines into Practice
- Nurses play a critical role to operationalize best practices to mitigate the effects of acute stroke
- Requires ongoing comprehensive education of nurses administering care to stroke survivors

Theoretical Framework
Benner’s From novice to expert model will be used to guide development, implementation & evaluation of this project.

Conclusion/Recommendations
The proposed model curricula can:
- Provide a cost effective approach for stroke centers to deliver nursing CE
- Enhance practicing RNs stroke related KSAs
- Provide evidence based stroke education for baccalaureate nurses
- Improve patient outcomes
- Satisfy stroke center regulatory requirements