THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL IN HOSPITALS

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ABSTRACT

INTENDED CHANGE/IMPROVEMENT:

- On admission, some hospitals have a set of questions for patients with history of mental illness, suicide, suicidal tendencies, and abuse.
- There is no system in place to assess and communicate a patient's violence potential within the healthcare setting.
- Review of literature gave the best recommendation. An assessment tool to predict the violence tendencies in patients admitted to the hospital is an important aspect of a workplace prevention program.
- Development and implementation of a Violence Risk Assessment Tool:
  - To identify patients admitted to hospitals with propensity to violence.
  - To effectively communicate a patient’s violent tendencies within the healthcare setting.
  - To decrease the number of violent acts committed by patients.
  - To decrease assault and injury to the nursing staff.

Development and Implementation of a Violence Risk Assessment Tool:

- There is no system in place to assess and communicate a patient’s violence potential within the healthcare setting.
- To provide a means to effectively assess violent patients as they are admitted to the hospitals and to effectively communicate a patient’s violent tendencies within the healthcare setting.
- The purpose of this evidence-based change project was to provide a means to effectively assess violent patients as they are admitted to the hospitals and to effectively communicate a patient’s violent tendencies within the healthcare setting.
- A remarkable difference of 35 nonfatal assaults prevented since the violence risk assessment tool was implemented.

Ethical Issues:

Beneficence is an ethical principle that defines most nurses--the desire to do good, to help others, and to advocate for their patients.

The theory of non-maleficence and autonomy--nursing interventions are intended to produce beneficial effects, contribute to quality outcomes, and above all do no harm exclusion of all people with mental illness or substance misuse problems is unjustified