

World
NURSING EDUCATION AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE CONFERENCE
&
4th International **HEART CONFERENCE**

April 22-23, 2019 Dubai, UAE

Role of nursing staff in patient's safety

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Patient safety is one of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges. Indeed, worldwide there are an increasing number of patients that suffer injuries, disabilities and deaths as a result of safety lapses while receiving treatment, surgeries and hospital care. Estimates show that in developed countries as many as one in 10 patients is harmed while receiving hospital care. In developing countries, the probability of patients being harmed in hospitals is higher than in industrialized nations. The sad thing is that the majority of these incidents could have been avoided had there been a strict adherence to standards of care as well as awareness and compliance among healthcare staff to patients' safety regulations and protocols.

As the primary caregivers in hospitals, nurses are best positioned to improve quality and patient safety. Indeed, nurses are often the closest to the patients and the majority of their activities and procedures at work involve patients' safety risks. This in turn necessitates extra efforts, cautions, and responsibilities among nursing staff in order to appropriately prevent and manage patients' safety incidents and to provide a (risk-free) quality care to their patients at all times.

In the midst of the above this presentation will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide understanding of patients' safety concept.
- Highlight the principles of patients' safety.
- Present some tips for strengthening patients' safety.
- Highlight the legal issues associated with patients' safety.
- Present an effective incident reporting system.

is a fundamental principle of health care. Every point in the process of care-giving contains a certain degree of inherent unsafety. Patient safety is a serious global public health issue.

Patient safety is described as a process by which an organization makes patients care safer or free of harm. This should involve:

- Risks assessment
- The identification and management of patients related risks
- The reporting and analysis of incidents
- And the capacity to learn from and follow up incidents and implement solutions to minimize the risk of them recurring.

Consider why patients feel safe in hospitals: i.e. they observe the nurses the way they act, talk (trg, confidence). Also consider nurse role as monitors: to patients' deterioration; organizational faults; resources; maintenance.

Consider nurses obligation: to adhere to their professional code of conduct; standards; training and cpd; Also, their role to supervise & monitor students; juniors & new comers; delegation.

In striving to achieve good practice ourselves, we can also act role models and champions. By reporting adverse events and near misses, we can ensure that data is captured that will contribute to learning. In terms of reporting, we know that nurses do this better than other groups. Consider nurses foresight to prevent a problem/risk occurring (i.e. the 3-bucket model). Consider why mistakes occur, i.e. human factor & system factors and work towards addressing them. Consider the Antecedents, determinants and components of safety performance and Consider communication

Biography

Dr. Rabie'e Al Rashdi graduated as a general nurse from the UK in 1987 before joining the Sultan Qaboos Military Academy from which he graduated as an Officer and then returned to UK to specialize in Accident and Emergency, Flight Nursing, as well as Intensive Care. Worked as a Nursing Officer in various military hospitals and climbed up the professional career ladder to finally become the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the Armed Forces Medical Services, Oman. He served in this demanding post for over 12 years, then he was appointed as the Commandant (Dean) of AFMS School. Dr Rabie'e left the military healthcare services at the beginning of 2015 and is currently working as Planning and Development Expert in the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority. Dr. Rabie'e has a master's degree in Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Napier University, Edinburgh (Scotland), with a focus on healthcare Human Resources Development and Management. He also holds a post doctorate diploma in strategic management and leadership from Oxford Business College, UK, as well as various leadership and management courses.

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