Hands-on Curriculum Educates Neuroscience Nurses on Bedside Swallow Screening

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Faculty Disclosure Information

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:
- No relevant financial relationship exists
Objectives

- Participants will learn to design and implement a comprehensive curriculum to promote a nurse-driven bedside swallow screen across the care continuum in a hospital setting.
Why Screen?

- Dysphagia is present in up to 67% of stroke patients within the first three days after a cerebrovascular incident (Donovan et al., 2013).
- The higher risk for dysphagia and aspiration among stroke patients leads to lengthened hospital stay, increased risk of hospital-acquired pneumonia, and other medical complications (Titsworth et al., 2013).
- It is vital that stroke patients have a swallow screening or formal evaluation performed prior to any oral intake (including medications).
Pre-Intervention
Solution: Nurse Driven Screen

- **Evidence-based**: Effectively identifies patients at risk for post-stroke dysphagia and improves outcomes
- **Feasible**: Can be effectively performed by trained nurses at the bedside
- **Patient-centered**: Promotes early detection of dysphagia
Ample staff training is vital for the success of the screening tool in accurately detecting dysphagia (Bours et al., 2009).

Be Aware:
Many screens lack curricula to adequately establish knowledge and skills.
Our Process

Plan

Involve

Develop

Team

Lit Review

Gap Analysis

Staff

Key Stakeholders

Content Experts

Design

Implement

Evaluate
Design a focused curriculum

- Ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke
- Neurological assessment and diagnostics
- Stroke rehabilitation and prevention
- Introduction to the multidisciplinary care team
- Interactive training sessions on nurse driven bedside swallow screen
Teaching Methods

• Knowledge assessments (pre & post)
• Computer-based modules
• Video
• In-Person Lecture
• Hands-on simulations & live validations
  • RN: RN
  • RN: Patient
  • RN: Validator
Implementation Strategies

- Validator presence
- Incentives
- Feedback
- Quick references
- New electronic flowsheet

Gratitude to the participants
Kirkpatrick’s 4 Levels of Training Evaluation

- **Reaction**: Evaluation, Discussion
- **Learning**: Pre/Post Test, Simulation
- **Behavior**: Validations, Rounding
- **Results**: Immediate, Ongoing
Outcomes of this Project

- After implementation, the percentage of swallow screens properly performed increased from 73.3% in 2015 to 93.6% in 2017 (p<.001).

[Graph showing quarterly percentage of stroke patients screened for dysphagia]
Outcomes of this Project

- The incidence of aspiration pneumonia and all pneumonia on the neurology units decreased by over **25%** after the implementation of this initiative.
Sustainability

- Staff Nurses Leading the Change
- Engage Unit Based Councils
- Incorporate into Unit Projects
In Conclusion…

• Innovative & comprehensive
• Hands-on curriculum
• Interprofessional efforts

Supports learner outcomes
Optimizes Patient Care
References


More references available upon request
Thank You

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Lisa Bloom, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
Diane Malinowski, MSN, RN, CNRN