Coordinating Patient Care

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Coordinating patient care is a very important part in the medical field. What is Care Coordination? It is defined as a “function that helps ensures that the patient’s needs and preferences for health services and information sharing across people, functions, and sites are met over time.” (Stefanacci, 2013). It is the key that organizes patients’ care and making sure while doing it, that it is done safe. When we are looking at clients’ care we must include all aspects of their care. Only those that are directly taking care of the client should be included in their care coordination. This can include but is not limited to: patients and their families, nurses, doctors, pharmacists etc. The nurse plays a major role in the coordination of care which includes admission, transfers and discharge. (Henry,23).

Research shows that coordination of patient’s care has improved outcomes for all involved. It has improved the quality of life for most chronic illness patients because of the problem-solving method. Each party that are involved must have knowledge about their roles. The patient should always be at the center. Each patient care can range from being simple to being more complexed. Client coordination is focus mostly with Patient-family approach. Patient Coordination are based off what the patient current need is at that present time.

Nursing roles in Coordination of Patients’ care includes, providing high quality health care as the client is moved through the healthcare system in a cost-effective and time-efficient way. The nurses are responsible for organizing the interprofessional team. The Interprofessional team is a group of healthcare workers from different disciplines. This can include nursing staff, pharmacists, physicians and their assistants and the therapists. The nurse role is to make sure that she is collaborating the clients’ care. Most hospital use a clinical pathway, which outlines the clients care. Collaboration has shown to have achievement results when it is done correctly. Collaboration is a form of conflict resolution, which results in a win-win situation.

 For the nurse to collaborate with the interprofessional team she must show leadership, good communication and conflict negotiation skills. Nurses must also show assertiveness, professional pressure and that they are able to be great decision makers and critical thinkers. The nurse must continue to have a holistic point of view over the clients during his/ her during stay. The nurse is responsible for having information ready to provide to doctors on rounds and during the Interprofessional team meeting.

There are four decision making styles that are used in coordinating the patient care. The styles are: decisive, flexible, hierarchical, and integrative. Most times the group leader decides which style is used. The style is based off the data collected and options that are formed. At times the members of the interprofessional team are opposed to changes. The following are three strategies the manager can use to implement these changes: rational-empirical, normative-reeducate and power-coercive.

The nurse role in coordinating of patient care also includes continuity of care. Within the continuity of care, the nurse is responsible for the admission, transfer, discharge, and post discharge of prescriptions. The nurse must also make referrals if the client care dictate for such. The nurse must use her skills in documentation to report client care to oncoming shifts so that everyone is involved and up to date on the plan of care for the client. Some nurses play the role of case management and sometimes are not involved in patient direct care. The case management goal is to avoid readmission and to control cost. Coordinating patient’s Care will continue to be used in hospitals and long-term care.

 References

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