Science Internship Program: Nursing Care

Civic Education
Office of Government and Community Relations
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Science Internship Program:
Nursing Care
An Inquiry Into the Relationship Between Spiritual Care Interventions and Length of Stay in Select Hospital Patients

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Abstract

• Looked to decrease the length of stay (LOS) for inpatients
• Conducted a cross sectional study focusing on the correlation between spiritual care interventions and LOS in groups vulnerable to spiritual struggle
• Utilized local Enterprise Business Intelligence forms (EBI), International Classification of Diseases (ICD) volume 9 and 10 and EPIC (electronic medical records) to gather information and data for our study
Background

• Spiritual care is a form of complementary care
• Spirituality is defined as the meaning found in the connection/relationship people have with their environment, heritage, sacred holy, and/or other people.
Spiritual struggle is integral to patients with the following diagnoses: eating disorders, suicide attempts and/or ideation, ETOH (alcohol) addiction and sexual assault.

Previous studies show spiritual care has a positive correlation with Quality of Life (QOL)

- Improved QOL connects with reductions in depression, burden of illness, and patient irritability
Problem/Purpose

- Problem: The longer an inpatient stays in a hospital, the more money it not only costs the patient but the hospital as well. Prolonged length of stay increases a patient’s immediate risk of getting sick.
- Purpose: To decrease the LOS and possibly re-admissions for inpatients
Hypothesis

- Spiritual care visits in a hospital would correlate with a decreased LOS in inpatients who are vulnerable to spiritual struggle.
Methodology

- Reviewed qualitative and quantitative studies
- Examined EBI reports to find candidates for study
  - Categorized the patients into 3 groups: candidates, possible candidates/ unspecified, and not candidates
- Utilized ICD 9 and 10 to define medical codes related to our group of interest
Methodology (cont.)

- Contacted a financial analyst for help in efficiently researching patient files
- Used EPIC to match patients with diagnoses and gather LOS data
NOTE: No data was found for sexual assault patients’ utilizing Spiritual Care interventions
Results

- Of the 315 patients reviewed ETOH addiction and eating disorder were the most common diagnoses.
- These diagnoses have the greatest difference in LOS with and without spiritual care interventions.
- Whether spiritual care interventions affect sexual assault victims’ LOS is unsure.
- Spiritual Care may not affect suicide attempt/ideation patients’ LOS.
Conclusions

We can conclude:

• There may be a correlation between spiritual care visits and LOS in patients who have eating disorders or ETOH addiction

• There may be no correlation between patients who have/had suicide attempts or ideation.

• There is no data to support a conclusion that sexual assault patients’ LOS will be affected by spiritual care
Recommendations

• A larger sample size would produce more valid and accurate results.
• Need to control variables.
• More research done on the connection between Spiritual Care and healthcare.
• Explore further implications of not only biological but spiritual, psychological and social aspects in health care.
References


References (cont.)


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