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Science Internship Program: Nursing Care

Civic Education
Office of Government and Community Relations
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Science Internship Program:
Nursing Care
Education + Empowerment = Increase the Quality of Care in the NICU

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Abstract

• Nursing education in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
  – Increase comfort levels and confidence
  – Improve quality of care in Hillcrest NICU
• Care for extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants
• Learning tool created to engage nurses
Background

- Hillcrest Hospital- Level III NICU
  - ELBW infants
- Nursing education
  - Orientation
  - Onboarding
Problem/Purpose

• NICU nurses felt uncomfortable with providing care in certain areas
  – ELBW infants

• Nurses need proper education to increase their comfort levels in all areas of care
Hypothesis

- If NICU nurses feel empowered and are provided with the proper education and tools to further explore a certain topic, then their comfort level and the quality of care they perform will significantly increase.
Methodology

- Results from a survey in early 2016
- Solution to improve
- Literature search
- Find best way nurses learn
- Create a learning booklet
- Create a survey
Data

- 76 NICU nurses surveyed
- 31 nurses responded
- Represents approximately 41% of the Hillcrest NICU nurse population
Data

Nurse Comfort Levels in Caring for ELBW Infants Prior to Reading the Booklet

- 77% Feel Comfortable
- 23% Do Not Feel Comfortable
Active Learning Vs. Lectures

- Active learning
  - Independent
  - Only a few minutes at a time

- Lectures
  - Dependent on instructor
  - Hours at a time
Data (cont.)

• **Adult Learning Principles**
  - Self- Directed
  - Previous Knowledge/ Experience
  - Relevant/Practical Information
  - Goal/Problem Oriented
  - Motivation
  - Time Management
  - Different Learning Styles
Results

Active Learning Vs. Lectures

- Prefer Active Learning (Booklet): 94%
- Prefer Lectures: 6%
Results (cont.)

On a Scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest)
How Helpful Was the Booklet?

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Results (cont.)

Nurse Comfort Levels in Caring for ELBW Infants After Reading the Booklet

- Comfort Level Increased: 3%
- Comfort Level Did Not Change: 97%
Conclusions

• Active learning = most effective
  – Engages nurses
  – Boosts confidence
  – Follows all learning principles
Recommendations

• Incorporate more active learning tools
• Encourage all nurses to take the opportunity to care for all types of infants in the NICU
• Provide more learning booklets in the NICU
References


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