Implementation of Nursing Peer Review Within Shared Governance to Improve Patient Outcomes

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Introduction & Definitions

The current demand for hospitals to avoid financial penalties for hospital-acquired conditions requires the practice environment for nurses in acute care settings to enable the delivery of nursing care that is evidenced-based, clinically appropriate, and aimed at improving patients' clinical outcomes.

Shared governance is accepted as a structure that supports nursing practice as Magnet designated hospitals are required to have shared governance in place (American Nurses Credentialing Center, 2013).

Nursing peer review, based upon ANA Principles, is accepted to support nurses being accountable for the nursing care delivered. Magnet designated hospitals are required to have nursing peer review in place (American Nurses Credentialing Center, 2013).

Attributes of Nursing Peer Review (Haag-Heitman & George, 2011):
1. The peer is from the same job category
2. The review is done within the common practice environment
3. The review's feedback is timely and a component of on-going process
4. The review fosters continuous learning to improve practice
5. The feedback is provided in person
6. The review recognizes the nurse's professional experience level

The structure and processes that support the nursing environment of care

The question to be answered:

Does implementation of peer review among registered nurses working in an acute care hospital's medical surgical unit increase the level of shared governance and decrease patient falls rates compared to medical surgical units with no peer review process?

Intervention = nursing peer review

Measurements = level of shared governance and patient falls rates

References: