

078: THREE YEARS OF NURSING-SENSITIVE INDICATOR DATA: NATIONAL DATABASE OF NURSING QUALITY INDICATORS

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Objective:

To describe a national nursing association sponsored quality of care project and discuss its impact.

Methods:

In 1994, the American Nurses Association (ANA) began a Patient Safety, Nursing Quality Initiative to evaluate the impact of restructuring on hospitals. ANA's specific interest was to explore the impact of altered/decreased nurse staffing, especially registered nurses, on the outcomes of patient care. Since 1999, ANA has worked with acute care hospitals throughout the Nation collecting and analyzing standardized nursing unit level data on staffing and patient care outcomes. This report describes the similarities and differences among hospitals and nursing care units using two years of NDNQI data. The data represent 224 acute care hospitals in 35 states submitting data for 1999 and 2000.

Results:

The data demonstrate great variation among like units but not among different unit types in the number of contract nurses used; the mix of registered nurse, licensed practical nurse and unlicensed assistive personnel by unit type; and the percent of nurses certified for specialty practice. Data on patient outcomes for falls and injuries and hospital acquired pressure ulcers are presented and discussed.

In addition, the use of and subsequent development of a nurse satisfaction instrument and the evaluation of patient satisfaction instruments are discussed.

Included in the presentation is a discussion of the uses of the data and the benchmarks obtained and returned to the participating facilities. Also discussed is the role of nursing-sensitive indicators in health services and quality research in health care settings. A brief discussion of the ongoing work of this project will be presented.

Conclusions:

Nursing-sensitive indicators are collectable and useful in evaluating the quality of patient care and the impact nurse staffing has on patient care. There is variance among unit types and among units on some of the variables. Collection of nursing-sensitive indicators is valuable as a component in understanding patient outcomes.