Abstract Categories:
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Evidence-based Practice/Research
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Researchers in Clinical Settings

Abstract:
Introduction: Events that have potential for and actual patient harm are entered into the UHC’s Patient Safety Net (PSN), an online occurrence reporting data base. While this computerized system collects data for university hospitals across the United States, the data entered into the
PSN does not interface with each institution's medical records. This information disconnect leads to the need for nurses to document clinically significant information within the institution’s medical record as well. Nurses at WFUBMC found it difficult to document in the computer for the majority of their findings and then go back to paper for these events. When nurses discussed the issue with managers and administrators, the request was to move all documentation to computerized. Risk & Insurance Management felt it was important to include nurses in the decision of the proposed computerized documentation screens.

**Method(s):** A study using simulation of a patient event was developed. The simulation was presented to two groups of newly hired registered nurses in two separate settings. One group completed an electronic free-texting documentation form while the other group completed an electronic documentation form with very little free-texting available.

**Results:** Documentation of the patient event by each nurse was evaluated by a panel of experts utilizing pre-designated grading criteria that demonstrated effective and efficient capture of the necessary clinical information. The computerized event screen was refined to include all necessary components for patient occurrence documentation.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Pilot outcomes were four-fold: Nurse participation in the decision making, creation of a user friendly computerized documentation tool, increased documentation of important clinically significant information which could support appropriate care/defense of negligence allegations, and cost savings in building the computerized documentation screens. The project indicates use of simulation studies to determine changes in clinical policies and practice to improve patient care and involve nurses in the decision-making process can be an effective tool for evidence based practice.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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