**A5-19: Nurses’ View of Patient Education Documentation**

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**Abstract:**  
**Introduction:** Patient education (Pt ed) documentation is vital as a plan of care in meeting educational needs regarding disease management, health promotion and diagnostic interventions. A previous study conducted by the authors reported nursing documentation to be present only in 160 (65.8%) of 243 electronic patient charts reviewed. This survey was undertaken to determine nurses’ view of what Pt ed is, frequency Pt ed is performed during a shift, length of time of performing and documenting PT ed and importance of Pt ed documentation.

**Method(s):** A 5-question survey was distributed to licensed nursing staff of critical care, two medical-surgical units and telemetry of a 250-bed acute care adult medical surgical hospital. Surveys were distributed on all shifts over a period of a week and returned anonymously.

**Results:** One hundred five (32%) of 325 eligible licensed staff members completed the survey. When asked what Pt ed consisted of the majority (n=81, 77%) identified showing a video, on the spot explanation of medication, referral to another department for information or explanation of
equipment use. Frequency of the amount of patient education provided per shift was most frequently reported as “too many to count” (n=62, 59%) followed by once per patient (n=19, 18%). Time identified as most frequently spent providing Pt ed was 1-5 minutes (n=52, 49.5%) followed by 5-10 minutes (n=35, 33%). Time identified most frequently required to document Pt ed was most frequently 1-5 minutes (n=68, 65%) followed by 5-10 minutes (n=18, 17%). Acknowledgement was also made by 6 (6%) participants that the length of time of Pt ed and subsequent document takes depends upon the patient and topic. All participants recognized the importance of documentation of Pt ed by comments such as “empowering patients for self-care at home”, “so that patients cannot say they were not provided information”, “to show what has been taught and what needs reinforcement”, and “if it is not documented, it was not done”.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Study results demonstrated licensed nursing staff recognizes the importance of providing and documenting Pt ed but there continues to be a lack of documentation. Future studies are needed to identify barriers to Pt ed documentation.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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