

ABSTRACT

Advancing Nurses' Knowledge and Skills to Address Substance Use in an Ambulatory Care

Center: Abstract

Yovan Gonzalez

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this paper.”

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#### Background

There is growing evidence indicating that nurses can provide effective alcohol screening and brief interventions when compared to other healthcare providers. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to evaluate an online self-paced educational program, *Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Healthcare Providers* among nurses in an ambulatory care facility with the goal of increasing their knowledge in the screening and management of patients with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use.

#### Methods

The project had a one sample pretest/posttest design. A convenience sample was used in this project which included nurses working with adult patients at an ambulatory care facility. To evaluate a change in SBIRT-related knowledge from before to after the intervention, the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test was used. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were used to determine the need for future SBIRT education and the barriers to and facilitators for SBIRT implementation.

#### Results

There was a significant increase in SBIRT-related knowledge ( $p < 0.001$ ) from before to after the intervention. A higher proportion of the nurses had no SBIRT knowledge (45%) prior to the intervention. The nurses reported high confidence levels to screen for alcohol and drugs after the intervention. Five themes emerged as barriers to and facilitators to SBIRT implementation.

#### Conclusion

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It was feasible to deliver this online SBIRT education to nurses at a busy ambulatory care facility. Expansion of this project to other ambulatory care clinics and other healthcare professionals is warranted in an effort to inform a system-wide dissemination.