Bedside Assistance for Safety and Eyes on Kids (BASE): Telenursing in the Pediatric-ICU

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1 Background

Telemedicine is defined as “the use of medical information from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patient’s health status” (Goran, 2010). This is not a novel concept to medicine, but has been implemented within the healthcare system since the 1970's where the first physician-based telemedicine model was implemented (Field, 1996). Telemedicine among nurses in the ICU setting (tele-ICU nursing) has become of increased interest in recent years as a means of reducing error, delivering timely intervention, and increased monitoring of ICU patients.

2 Objectives:

- Initiate a 2-week pilot study of tele-ICU nursing within the JHH Children’s Center PICU.
- Evaluate adherence to nursing protocols pre and post implementation of the tele-ICU nurse within the Johns Hopkins PICU.
- Assess the Tele-ICU nurse’s compliance to essential job tasks there through post-implementation audits of the BASE Nurse Completed Task lists.

3 Methods

- A 2-week pilot study was conducted within the 40-bed PICU of the JHH Children’s center. The tele-ICU nurse was stationed in the BASE room located within the unit.
- The BASE was equipped with video monitors and speakers to give the BASE nurse (tele-ICU nurse) the ability to observe and communicate with bedside staff inside a patient’s room.
- The BASE nurse was live stream via video cameras to watch forty patients at one time.
- In the virtual rounding by the tele-ICU nurse is dependent on the acuity of the patient.

4 Results

- The frequency of the virtual rounding, although inconclusive at this time, is graphed below.

5 Conclusions

The data from the first pilot study is inconclusive, as more accurate data collection methods are necessary. However, the frequency of virtual rounding times by the BASE nurse reveal the potential value of BASE nursing for improved patient care.

6 Future Directions

1. Audit BASE Nurse Completed Task list during the week of study immediately following the BASE implementation through random selection of electronic medical records (EMRs) of patients who have been assigned a novice nurse (pre and post implementation) to collect nurse documentation of double signatures for medications, and CLABSI, and/or CAUTI care bundles.

2. Determine the novice nurses’ level of job satisfaction after implementing the tele-ICU Nursing care model through measuring their levels of job satisfaction pre and post implementation of the tele-nurse.

3. Determine the level of the tele-ICU nurses’ satisfaction of the role through administering a satisfaction survey post-implementation.

7 References


Funding Source:

The Helene Fuld Leadership Program for the Advancement of Patient Care Quality and Safety