

DNP Scholarly Paper

Abstract

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Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) are complex tasks including shopping, cooking, using telephone, modes of transportation, taking medications correctly, handling finances, and doing laundry. In the hospital setting, IADLs decline fast and are linked to negative outcomes including a high rate of patients' readmissions. Despite this, IADLs are not routinely assessed in the hospital settings, with not clearly defined reasons, but nursing burnout could be a contributing factor. To address the lack of IADLs assessments, the quality improvement project was created. Literature search identified the best IADLs tool – the Lawton and Brody Scale. The intervention was the introduction of the IADLs assessment by nursing students and sharing the findings with their assigned Registered Nurses (RNs). A novel instrument was created to assess the effect of the intervention by measuring RNs' Knowledge-Attitude-Practice about IADLs assessment and the feasibility of the project. The results demonstrated an improvement in RNs knowledge and attitude toward IADLs while their practice scores remained the same. Findings also indicated an increase in nurses' confidence in the feasibility of nursing students assessing IADLs. Our results support continuing to assess patients' IADLs in the hospital setting and the utilization of nursing students for future projects that incorporate EBPs.