

Abstract

Objective: This quality improvement project desired to determine what is known about suicide assessment and evaluation by the pediatric registered nurse and to develop, implement, and evaluate a registered nurse educational intervention to increase nurse confidence, comfort, and adherence to policy when assessing for suicide in the school age child and early adolescent.

Methods: This project utilized a one sample pre/post intervention design comparing nurse comfort, confidence, and adherence to hospital policy at baseline and after an education intervention on a 20-bed inpatient school age and burn unit in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Results: All 45 registered nurses were recruited to participate in this quality improvement project. 27 pre-intervention survey responses and 17 post-intervention survey responses were used for independent t test analysis and 31 participants completed the education intervention. There was a significant difference in pre intervention and post intervention survey comfort and confidence summary score ($t(41) = -3.56, p = .001$, two-tailed); A Chi-Square test for independence indicated that there was no significant association between pre/post intervention and ASQ screening completion, ($1, n = 293) = .14, p = .71, \phi = .028$).

Conclusion: This quality improvement project intervention improved comfort and confidence when screening for suicide risk, indicating that a brief education session and implementation of a nursing script helped nurses feel comfortable and confident when administering the suicide screen. However, there was no significant association between pre/post intervention and ASQ suicide screening completion, indicating that more work is needed to improve the screening rate.