

Abstract

Background. Differences in training on how to manage patients while present in the epilepsy monitoring unit (EMU) or how to recognize different seizure presentations might increase the occurrences of adverse events. The aim of this quality improvement project was to assess nursing knowledge and confidence levels by adapting a standardized, structured training program to educate nursing staff in epilepsy centers.

Methods. This project involved a pretest-posttest design to evaluate linked knowledge assessment scores and confidence levels for all participants at baseline, following completion of the learning module, and confidence levels at follow-up. The intervention consisted of a three-part learning module focusing on seizure knowledge, nursing response, and EMU-specific content.

Results. A total of 25 EMU-trained nurses enrolled in this project with 22 participants who completed the post-intervention materials with a participant average of 2.68 years of EMU experience. A more than nine percent increase in knowledge assessment scores was noted following completion of the learning module with no difference in knowledge assessment scores with respect to patient population or CNRN certification. There was an increase in average confidence levels pre- and post-training for a majority of the survey items with inadequate data to determine statistical significance on confidence level at follow-up.

Conclusion. This project demonstrated an improvement in nursing knowledge and confidence levels in seizure-related management and response following implementation of a learning module. Findings highlight the need for a systemic method to educate nurses in epilepsy centers. Nursing orientation should consist of a standardized education program on epilepsy and evidence-based patient care in EMUs.