

Abstract

Purpose. This quality improvement project aimed to increase nurse confidence, satisfaction, and knowledge in communicating with mechanically ventilated patients.

Methods. A pre- post-intervention design was utilized to evaluate the impact of the SPEACS-2 Communication Training Program in a 42-bed Medical Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The SPEACS-2 Program consisted of a one-hour virtual education module and included the provision of all associated communication tools for participant (n = 49) use. The planned analysis for the primary outcomes of change in nurse confidence and satisfaction was the Wilcoxon Signed Rank test. Planned analysis for the primary outcome of change in nurse knowledge was a paired t-test. However, due to high attrition rate, the planned analysis was unable to be performed.

Exploratory analysis was performed on pre-survey data using the Mann-Whitney U test for all three primary outcomes to determine differences in confidence, satisfaction, and knowledge depending on participant age, years of nursing experience, and years of ICU experience.

Results. Due to significant participant drop out (n = 47), original planned analyses were not performed. No statistical difference in participant confidence, satisfaction, or knowledge was appreciated based on age ($p = .110$), years of nursing experience ($p = .336$), or years of ICU experience ($p = .374$).

Implications. Pre-survey data from this DNP project reinforces the need for further education and training in the implementation unit as evidenced by low levels of confidence, satisfaction, and knowledge across all ages and levels of experience of participants.