

Abstract:

Ineffective communication during nurse shift handoffs is a large contributor in medical errors and disruptions in continuity of care. The purpose of this evidence-based practice project is to determine whether to implement a bedside shift report as the standard communication tool would improve patient safety and care compared to the traditional hand-off. The targeted population includes hospitalized patients in all units. Bedside reports include verbal reports with visual verification of the patient status and equipment, use of an EHR standard hand-off template, communication tools such as SBAR, and patient education with obtained consent prior to hand-off process. Current research includes systematic reviews and other studies which have shown an improvement in efficiency, but revealed barriers including time constraints and inconsistent implementations. Outcomes include reduction of medical errors, decrease in miscommunication and improvement of continuity of care. Overall, the evidence supports bedside reports as an efficient patient-centered strategy that enhances care and safety in the hospital setting.