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Perceptions of work and outcomes among clinical nurse specialists (findings of a qualitative study)

Mitzi M Saunders

University of Detroit Mercy, USA

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a “behind the scenes” advanced practice nurse. Documenting the work and outcomes of CNSs is crucial to support the role in the future of health care reform. Additionally, it is vitally important to meet the needs of the growing tsunami of older adult patients with CNSs who have advanced clinical knowledge in the needs of older adults (Adult-Gerontology CNSs). The findings of this study support the Adult-Gerontology CNS role. The findings show how CNSs match work and outcomes with quality and safety metrics as a clinical expert and systems leader. Overall, CNSs make an impact by pairing clinical decisions with business decisions in meeting the needs of patients, nurses, and the over-arching goals of health care systems.

Biography

Mitzi M Saunders is an Associate Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy and coordinates the Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist program. She has 25 years experience as a RN and 10 years experience as a certified Clinical Nurse Specialist. She earned her PhD in Nursing at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 2006. She has taught nursing for the past 15 years and specializes in on-line methodologies. Her expertise is in adult and gerontology nursing care.

saundemm@udmercy.edu