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Implementation of an advanced practice provider rapid response team: A pilot study

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Background: Rapid response teams (RRT) are increasingly found in critical care environments and can positively impact patients by providing an opportunity for early detection and intervention for clients undergoing a health crisis. However, not all RRT are created equal, and RRT leadership provided by an advanced practice provider (APP) has been shown to positively impact patient care.

Objectives: The purpose of the study was to compare the effectiveness in a pilot program of a RRT managed by Advanced Practice versus that of an RRT managed by RN. This project illustrates potential recommendations for implementation of an APP-led RRT.

Methods: Rapid response calls were collected over a 2 month period and categorized as either a) APP-RRT managed calls, or b) RN-RRT managed calls. Measured outcomes of each call were: admissions to the ICU, in-hospital cardiopulmonary arrests, failure to rescue rates, and LOS in the ICU.

Results: During the 2 month intervention period, the APP-managed team had lower ICU admission rates, lower length of stay in the ICU, lower number of non-terminal cardiopulmonary arrests, and a lower failure to rescue rate.

Conclusions: Advanced practice providers are leaders that are uniquely qualified to provide additional modalities, beyond the scope of the registered nurse and advanced cardiopulmonary life support (ACLS), which are essential to improving patient outcomes.

Biography

Jennifer Adamski DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CCRN, is an Assistant Clinical Professor and the Director of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at Emory University. He is an expert Critical Care Clinician and Educator and serves as an APRN expert witness for Trauma and Critical Care nationally. She is the past Director of Advanced Practice leading clinical operations and serves as an Independent Consultant for APRN model development. She has an APRN seat on the Georgia Board of Nursing and leadership roles in multiple national organizations. She has received numerous distinguished awards for clinical practice, education and leadership.

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