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The impact of in-service education on ICU nurses' knowledge and compliance with practices for preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia

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Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) is the leading cause of hospital- acquired infections in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). A diagnosis of VAP automatically translates to increased morbidity and mortality rates, length of stay, and treatment costs. Although VAP prevention requires a multi-disciplinary approach, ICU nurses play a pivotal role in the prevention of VAP.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of in-service education on ICU nurses' knowledge and compliance with practices for preventing VAP.

Significance: Examining nursing knowledge is a significant way to assess the delivery of quality care and success in practice. The ICU Nurse's role in preventing VAP is impacted by both knowledge and adhering to evidence based practices.

Methodology: A quasi-experimental nonequivalent groups design was selected to examine nurses' knowledge and compliance with ventilator bundle elements before and after in-service education. One sample nonparametric testing was used to analyze pretest and posttest scores.

Results: Twenty-five nurses from the interventional group scored 100% on the pretest (no room for improvement), resulting in a statistically significant score increase ($p=.009$). However, nurses who had room for improvement, had a mean score increase of 1.33 ($P<.0.0 = 0.0156$). The overall compliance with ventilator bundle elements had a mean increase of 4.3% among the intervention group. Post interventional observations suggest a strong coalition between knowledge and improved clinical practices.

Biography

Dr Ennies Musvosvi obtained her Bachelor of Science from Jacksonville University-Florida, Masters of Science Nursing from California State University-Chico, California and Doctor of Nursing Practice from Touro University, Nevada. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing at California State University-Chico. Her expertise in Nursing Education is pathophysiology and nursing management of disease processes. Her clinical specialty is Critical Care Nursing. As a tenure track faculty, she has presented at local and international levels on various health topics to bring health awareness to both rural and urban communities.

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