Nursing Evaluation of Palliative Resources in An Acute Care Setting: Perceptions, Satisfaction, and Educational Needs

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Background

- Lack of research evaluating nursing perceptions and educational needs related to palliative care
- Limited Resources

Purpose

- To determine baseline nursing satisfaction scores related to the palliative care resources currently available at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Methods

- 18 quantitative & qualitative questions were developed and reviewed by the medical director
- 5 major categories surveyed - Perceptions - Nursing Attitudes - Symptom Management - Satisfaction - Education
- Using Survey Monkey®, the survey was sent out to all RNs
- Survey was completed in April 2009

Results

- 216 of approximately 1500 nurses completed the survey (15%)
- 65.9% of respondents realized palliative care is not only for end of life
- 65.7% were comfortable caring for patients still actively receiving treatments
- 86.1% felt comfortable caring for patients on pure comfort measures

Educational Needs Identified

- Level of Comfort Caring for Patients Receiving Palliative Care & Active Treatment
- Level of Comfort Caring For Patients on Pure Comfort Measures

Conclusion

- Nurses report understanding the role of palliative care. However, more nurses felt comfortable caring for patients on pure comfort measures versus caring for patients pursuing active treatment.
- The majority of nurses report that the Palliative Care Team helps the nurse feel supported and also helps to improve the nurse’s care of the patient receiving palliative care services.
- Nursing staff feels that educational opportunities related to palliative care would be beneficial.

Future Considerations

- Provide education to the nurses about palliative care earlier in the disease trajectory
- Implementation of the suggested educational methods and a follow-up survey may prove beneficial to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions on the five major categories.

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