Patient safety culture can improve the quality of nursing care

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To the Editor

Patient safety is an indispensable and vital component of healthcare systems, constituting a fundamental pillar of quality within healthcare organizations [1]. Currently, the focus on ensuring patient safety is a crucial aspect of delivering healthcare services in hospitals, as any deficiencies in this area may result in unfavorable outcomes. Indeed, the entitlement to be protected from harm while undergoing medical treatment is a fundamental human right. Ensuring patient safety is a critical measure of hospital management, and neglecting it may result in a rise in patient mortality [2].

Nursing errors and mistakes not only result in harm to patients but also give rise to various issues. These include ineffective and incomplete treatment, prolonged hospital stays, escalated expenses, erosion of patient confidence in the healthcare system, and the potential for legal complications for nurses [3]. Given that human errors cannot be completely eliminated, it is crucial to focus on minimizing their frequency by thoroughly examining and pinpointing the underlying causes of these errors. By doing so, suitable measures can be implemented to effectively mitigate and prevent such errors from occurring in the future [4]. An effective approach involves providing training and promoting awareness regarding patient safety culture among healthcare staff, particularly nurses, in order to transform the existing culture and align it with the advancements in quality of care [5].

Patient safety culture refers to the acknowledgment of patient safety as a fundamental priority and shared value within the institution. It encompasses a cohesive framework of behaviors at both the individual and organizational levels, rooted in collective beliefs and values. These behaviors are consistently aimed at reducing the risks associated with delivering patient care [6]. Patient safety is a crucial element in delivering top-notch healthcare services, with nurses being key players in ensuring its provision. The emphasis on patient safety reflects the standard of nursing care, making it the cornerstone of excellent nursing services. Nurses are required to continuously strive for enhanced care quality, ensuring that their duties are carried out accurately across various shifts. This approach minimizes the risk of harm to patients while maximizing the potential for positive outcomes [7].

Professionals suggest that in order to enhance patient quality and advance patient safety, in addition to structural changes, it is imperative to educate nurses and staff within the medical services department about patient safety culture [8]. Given that nurses make up the largest portion of healthcare workers, altering the safety culture within this group can greatly impact the establishment and perpetuation of a culture of patient safety within the organization [9].

In conclusion, the establishment of a patient safety culture is imperative in order to deliver high-quality nursing care. It is crucial for policymakers, managers, and hospital leaders to prioritize this matter as part of their strategic agenda. Continuously assessing the extent of safety culture should be an ongoing endeavor. Achieving this objective necessitates the endorsement of those in positions of authority, particularly by adopting a non-punitive stance towards errors and encouraging their reporting. By implementing such measures, the identification and mitigation of nursing errors can be effectively addressed.

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