Translating Research Findings into Practice: An Investigation of Missed Nursing Care.

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Translating Research Findings into Practice: An Investigation of Missed Nursing Care

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Based on Kalisch’s pivotal research regarding missed nursing care and nursing teamwork, a network-wide investigation of missed care details how findings can be applied to enhance a healthy work environment for nurses while fostering improved patient safety and outcomes.

Healthy Work Environment (HWE)
- Professional organizations, state and national coalitions, and third party payers are challenging healthcare leaders to improve the work environment.
- As the largest group of clinicians, promoting a HWE for nurses is critical. Associated outcomes include the overall health of nurses, successful recruitment and retention, and safe, high quality patient care. (Kramer & Schmalenberg, 2008)

The Impetus...
To understand the complexity of delivering nursing care and explore those aspects that promote a HWE, the CNO of an academic, community Magnet™ hospital prompted nursing research to focus on missed nursing care and teamwork.
- IOWA Model of Evidence-Based Practice
- Two nurse scientists from local universities guided the scientific inquiry

Missed Nursing Care
Failure to complete nursing care can result in adverse outcomes. Identifying factors that predict missed care is essential in reducing its occurrence.
- Missed nursing care is any aspect of required patient care that is omitted (either in part or in whole) or delayed (Kalisch, Landstrom, & Hinshaw, 2009).

Purpose of the Study
- Identify the type and reasons for missed nursing care.
- Identify workplace factors, including perceptions of teamwork and work environment that predict missed nursing care.

Theoretical Framework
The The Missing Nursing Care Model serves as the conceptual framework for this study (Kalisch & Lee, 2010).

Methods
Descriptive, cross-sectional design
- The MISSCARE Survey, Nursing Teamwork Survey, Nurses-to-Nurses (N2N) Work Environment Instrument electronically sent to 1,051 RNs and unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs) from 21 med/surg units, 2 RN and 2 UAP float pools across 2 sites
- Open-ended questions to identify novel themes regarding missed nursing care, teamwork and work environment
- Data analyzed with random regression analyses, clustering responses within units

Results
- 70% response rate was attained.
- Types and reasons for missed care were similar to those reported by Kalisch and colleagues (2010, 2011).

Unique Finding
- Analyses of open-ended questions support quantitative findings.
- “Documentation” is not only an element of missed care (i.e., failed to document), but “too much time spent on documentation” is also a reason for missed nursing care.

Take Away
- Greater teamwork and healthier work environments are significantly related to less missed care.
- The scientific method employed and the conscious use of nonbiased nurse scientists demonstrates a pragmatic approach to translate research findings into practice.

REFERENCES: