

Caring for Agitated Patients Using Nurse Managed Protocol

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Caring for Agitated Patients Using Nurse Managed Protocol

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BACKGROUND

A growing concern:

- Pharmacological interventions are overly utilized during the care of agitated patients (Livingston, 2014.)

Change needed:

- Implement & prioritize alternative interventions during the care of agitated patients

PURPOSE

Decrease patient agitation and maximize use of alternative interventions by Registered Nurses through education and implementation of a nurse managed protocol

EVIDENCE

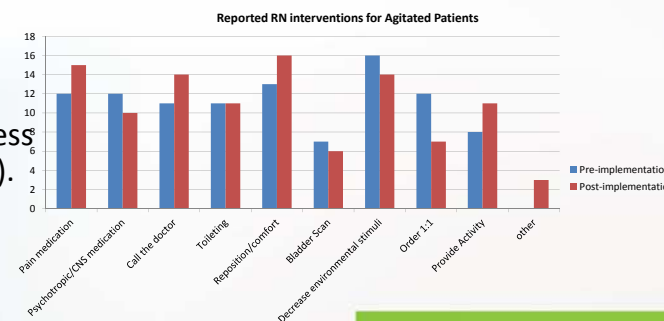
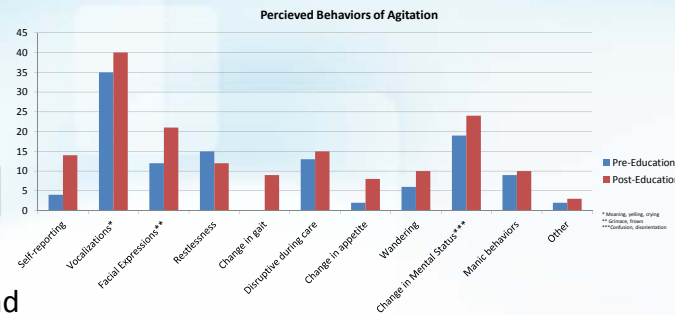
- Patients > 65 y.o. are at increased risk for discomfort or agitation during medical illness and care (Pelletier, 2007).
- Agitation may go unnoticed, misdiagnosed, mistreated (Pelletier, 2007).
- Psychotropic/CNS medications should be used less due to effects on body systems (Livingston, 2014).
- Physical and psychological needs may be unmet due to inappropriate assessment (Achterberg, 2013).

Proper assessment = Appropriate treatment = Improved quality of care

METHODS

- Survey 5CP nurses' knowledge before implementing agitation nursing protocol.
- Educate nurses on agitation in older adults and the use of alternative interventions to decrease behaviors
- Implement nurse driven protocol for assessing and relieving agitated behaviors
- Survey 5CP nurses' perspective on effectiveness of protocol

OUTCOMES



RESULTS

- Education increased RN's perception of specific agitated behaviors
- *Pre Edu*: RNs perceived agitation through vocalizations; least likely through change in gait
- *Post Edu*: RN's perception of agitation through change in gait improved
- *Pre Implementation*: RNs perceived decreasing environmental stimuli as his/her most utilized intervention for agitated patients
- *Post Implementation*: RNs perceived decrease in use of CNS meds and need for 1:1 orders, RNs reported increase in repositioning, comfort measures, and providing activities for agitated patients

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