Improving Burn Nursing Skills and Knowledge with Burn Specific Competencies

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BACKGROUND

• LVHN’s Regional Burn Center is accredited by the American Burn Association (ABA).
• New 2015 ABA guidelines require all burn centers to develop burn-specific competencies.
• LVHN does not currently hold Education Days that focus on validation of burn-specific knowledge/skills.
• Varying levels of burn care skill and knowledge exist among nursing staff.
• Re-education and development of burn competencies are needed to correct gaps in knowledge deficits and meet ABA re-verification criteria.

PICO QUESTION

• In burn nursing, does the implementation of a unit-based educational program with annual competencies, when compared to centers that do not utilize annual competencies, improve the knowledge and skill of the staff and meet criteria for ABA re-verification?

EVIDENCE

• Information obtained in the simulated environment is valid and appropriate for use in judging nurse competency... A skills re-credentialing program provides a valid assessment of nurse competence (Jones, Cason, & Mancini, 2002).
• There is a critical need for nursing-led evidence-based education. Education programs for post resuscitative and intensive care unit phase of a burn patient are limited. Having a standardized education resource improved staff knowledge related to burn nursing care (Olszewski et al, 2015).
• Major strides in understanding the principles of burn care over the last half century have resulted in improved survival rates, shorter hospital stays, and decreases in morbidity and mortality rates due to the development of resuscitation protocols, improved respiratory support, support of the hypermetabolic response, infection control, early burn wound closure, and early enteral nutrition. Critical care of the burn patient requires the participation of every discipline in the hospital (Latenser, 2010).