

Evaluative Reflection

This project was a culmination of work that spanned multiple semesters. This assignment forced me to think about an issue from different perspectives. Not only did I have to think about how to improve an issue from a nursing standpoint, but one challenge was viewing the same issue from multiple vantage points. These different viewpoints included departments such as pharmacy, HBS, nephrology, and contracted hemodialysis agency RNs.

The project discovered an opportunity for improvement in the communication between primary RN's, Hemodialysis RN's, physicians and the inpatient pharmacist. There were delays and occasional omitted doses of the antibiotic Vancomycin post hemodialysis secondary to communication breakdowns. Thru analysis and reflection I determined that communication was to blame for the failing current protocol. A new protocol was implemented and established in my hospital as a direct result of this project. This artifact demonstrates growth in my ability to evaluate a process, understand the limitations, and create a new process which improves upon current practice.

I enjoyed this project as it challenged my ability to work within the constraints of a team as well as construct a process improvement with the involvement of multiple departments. Some of the class learning objectives met thru this assignment were: Locate sources of data used to set benchmarks or determine performance indicators relevant to a select clinical problem or population. Describe ethical, financial, and legal issues that impact the use of healthcare technologies relevant to benchmarks and/or key indicators. Analyze the professional nurse's role in setting standards, measuring performance against standards, reporting results, and taking corrective action. Identify a theoretical or conceptual framework to guide change management relative to a clinical problem or population. Critically review evidence-based research for assessing quality, safety and professional practice improvements.