Best Method for Nurses to Handover Patients' Care in Hospital Settings

By

<Name>

<Date>

<Lecturer’s Name and Course Number>
Abstract

The handover process is a critical step in the healthcare cycle, which ensures the efficient and proficient transfer of information and responsibilities. The communication channel for handover must include essential information about the treatment methods, medication, organisational system, safety, and culture. Increasing trends of specialisation and technologies in nursing and healthcare environment has increased the risk of communication deficits and the gap in the delivery system, which can only be minimised by practising the consistent handover policy. These recommendations have the ability to eradicate the communication deficits that exist only in the clinical handover. This enables the nursing staff to play their useful role to transfer information and responsibilities to improve the quality of healthcare environments.
Chapter one- Introduction

The patient handover is defined as the transfer and communication of responsibility and reporting of the patient care from one nurse to another to ensure continuous and stable patient care. This research will focus on the evidence-based methods employed by the nurses in handing over patients’ care in the hospital settings. Different research and evidence-based studies will be considered to evaluate various methods by their efficacy. The discussion of different methods will be based on literature review providing recommendations by evidence for introducing better and competent method for improving the nursing practice of patient’s handover. These methods and indications will help to structure the nursing practices and system in such a way that ensures better transfer of information and responsibility. This is an area of immense importance as the transfer of information and responsibility makes an important component of the communication channel in nursing care, and is significant for the continuity of treatment and attention.

1.1. Background

The process of handover also referred as cross-coverage; sign over or shift report, is an important and significant process in the nursing structure. This ensures the efficient transfer of responsibility and information across the continuum. The template provided by the agency for qualitative handover document is given below;

<p>| <strong>Section I</strong>: Defining the sender, role and responsibilities | Definition of the organisation's nature, structure, functions and activities. The key areas of sender’s responsibilities and role in the health care environment. |
| <strong>Section II</strong>: Current Functions | Complete and detailed information about the duties and responsibilities that the sender’s organisation is fulfilling. Information about the new features and roles are also mentioned. |
| <strong>Section III</strong>: Recipient of the | Complete and comprehensive information about |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>the recipient bodies of the information and responsibilities. This section must include all the organisation, staff members and professionals who are meant to receive the specifications through the process of handover.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section IV: Collection of Information</strong></td>
<td>This section enlists all the data sources through which information, data, and responsibilities are established. Similarly, it also includes the methodology, time frame and involved individuals in the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section V: Triangulation</strong></td>
<td>The mechanism, process, and methods of data control and triangulation both internally and externally</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter Two - Methodology

2.1. Identification of Research question

To develop an active research question, the PICOT methodology was utilised that aided in addressing the critical section of the research. This format provides the necessary framework to summarise and specify the research question and evaluates its effects. The research was carried out to identify the effective handover methodology in a healthcare environment. Using PICOT method, the research question will comprise of the following elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion Criteria</th>
<th>Reasoning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connections to the questions under study. The studies were further specified by selecting research studies that were published from the year 2005 to onwards.</td>
<td>To only incorporate most related and recent studies in the analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The primary language of the studies was selected to be English.</td>
<td>Because of my personal level of understanding and fluency, only articles originally published in the English language have been chosen. Those articles which were translated from any other language were not included due to the chances of discrepancies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A systematic review that directly relates to the research question.</td>
<td>The scientific approach and systematic methodology used in studies can provide further insight into the research question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both verbal and non-verbal handover methods.</td>
<td>In the healthcare setting, the formal documentation is as important as face to face interaction between the nursing staff to ensure efficient transfer of information and responsibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included hospital in-patients and out-patients.</td>
<td>The importance of handover process is equally significant for indoor and outdoor patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Staff Experience</td>
<td>The National Health Safety Agency has published the standards for the handover policies that provide a basic framework for organising verbal and nonverbal and efficient communication in health care settings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3- Discussion

The literature review and the systematic analysis resulted in the establishment of themes for an efficient method of handover in a healthcare environment. Each of these specified topics highlighted the areas having the prospect of improvement in the handover system. The process of clinical handover is fundamental for congruity of patient treatment and care. Some researches, subjective evidence, and systematic data recommend that communication deficit in the transfer system is the primary reason for clinical failure or adverse incidents. Because of this, enhancing handover process is critical to ensuring the quality of health care. Handover is the exchange point of professional responsibility and information that requires a certain sense of obligation and accountability from practitioners.
Chapter Four- Conclusion

The primary purpose of this study was to analyse the literature review of different handover methods and assess the efficacy of these methods. Multiple studies have been reported in this literature review that indicate the effectiveness and productivity of computer-based information management and exchange system. The electronic handover technique not only reduces the chance of error but also makes the process more robust and fast. Within the healthcare environment, the importance of effective communication skills is of prime importance. It enables the nurses to maintain the communication channels and responsibilities of transferring information. Therefore, the education and training programmes that make them familiar with different aspects of the handover system can provide them with better adaptive capabilities. The information and patients’ data is of critical importance in healthcare. An efficient and robust accountability system must be introduced for handover in hospital settings to ensure that nursing staff handles information with full responsibility and obligation.
References


