PICOT Question Paper

Uchechi Val-Okolie, RN

Grand Canyon University

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**PICOT Question Paper**

**Population:** Health care Providers in an acute care setting

**Intervention:** The use of a standardized communication tool in an acute setting based on SBAR

**Comparison:** Regular communication protocols that include hands-on approach

**Outcomes:** Improved patient safety and delivery of optimal care

**Time:** 2 Months

**PICOT Question**

Among health care providers (**P**), can the use of standardized communication tool in acute settings based on the SBAR framework (**I**) compared to regular communication protocols (**C**) lead to improved safety and delivery of optimal care (**O**) within two months (**T**)?

**Problem**

Breakdown in communication is among primary causes of adverse outcomes in clinical settings, especially during handovers. Accordingly, effective communication leads to patient safety and increases overall patient satisfaction as well as optimal delivery of care outcomes (Anderson, 2019). However, many health providers face communication challenges due to a lack of a standardized communication tool that enhance a handoff approach and improve information sharing. Consequently, studies show that SBAR tool (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation can be an effective communication model in acute care setting. Providers and health care organizations can use the SBAR framework to structure high-urgency communication, especially between physicians and nurses in acute care. SBAR can be utilized in a host of settings but is particularly effective in mitigation of barriers to effective communication across various disciplines and between different staff cadres (Muller, Jurgens, Redaelli, Klingberg, K.… & Stock, (2018).

**Evidence-Based Solution**

The nurse-physician communication is an aspect of various impacts of differences in training and reporting guidelines. Imperatively, having a structured communication model would be essential in effectively communicating information, reducing adverse occurrences, promoting patient safety, enhancing quality care, and increasing satisfaction for both patients and health care providers (Patton, Tidwell, Falder-Saeed, Young, … & Binder, J. (2017).In this case, the PICOT question shows a relationship with evidence-based solution since structured communication is a crucial aspect of increasing better communication and a handoff approach to patient care. Further, evidence demonstrates that communication in acute care settings like intensive care unit (ICU) is essential to avoid occurrence of adverse patient events.

**Nursing Intervention**

Poor communication arises due to a lack of a standardized communication protocol or tool that nurses can use to share critical information with other health care providers. As such, nurses need to find interventions that can enhance better communication (Anderson, 2019). Therefore, the PICOT question addresses the need for nurses to develop evidence-based interventions like the use of SBAR framework, to have better communication and enhance optimal care delivery and better working relationship with other providers.

**Patient Care**

Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR) communication process is a standard tool that is effective in enhancing patient outcomes, improving satisfaction levels and reducing health care costs associated with issues like readmissions (Shahid & Thomas, 2018). As such, poor communication is a barrier to quality patient outcomes and satisfaction. Therefore, the PICOT problem affects patient care since ineffective communication leads to medical errors and is barriers to information sharing among health care providers.

**Health Care Agency**

Health care organizations need effective communication structures that enhance quality care delivery and minimize occurrence of adverse events, especially in acute care settings. Communication enables these entities to have standardized processes and better ways of engaging stakeholders, especially patients and health care professionals (Shahid & Thomas, 2018). As such, the PICOT question addresses the need to increase communication strategies and effectiveness with the aim of enhancing quality care delivery.

**Nursing Practice**

SBAR framework helps nurses to have purposeful and easy communication in care transition at handover time. Through the use of SBAR, nurses can capture important and relevant information to share with other providers, especially attending physicians. Achrekar, Murthy, Kanan, Shetty,… & Khattry (2016) opine that the utilization of SBAR tool in nursing practice during shift handover improves communication among nurse practitioners and ensures patient safety. Therefore, the PICOT question is essential for nursing practice as through the use of SBAR model nurses will enhance patient safety by communicating effectively.

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