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Safety Issues in Health Care

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Safety Issues in Health Care

Quality health care services are supposed to be rendered to patients in need of optimal survival. The World Health Organization (2019), has acknowledged patient safety is indeed a global issue because millions of patients have disabilities caused by these issues. Safety issues in health care take place due to reasons such as burn out or poor working coordination. The paper will discuss safety issues in healthcare services and evidence-based practice solutions to resolve safety issues.

Diagnostic errors have been seen to be the leading cause of safety issues in health care, caused by a lack of excellent patient assessment skills. Although human is to error, when it comes to health care, specific diagnoses may endanger the patient's life because of wrong treatment (Singh et al., 2017). For instance, a tuberculosis patient can be diagnosed as a cancer patient. Improper treatment caused by the diagnosis error causes the patient to develop illnesses they did not have in the first place, such as loss of vision. Like in the case mentioned earlier, such a diagnosis may amplify the tuberculosis disease into something severe due to unwarranted chemotherapy sessions or cancer medication treatment. In addition to this, surgical errors also relate to safety issues in health care. For instance, a foreign object such as gauze was left inside the patient's body during the operation process. Some of these instances may lead to a patient's death.

Another standard safety issue in healthcare is medication errors such as administering the wrong medication to another patient, handing out expired medicine, giving patients wrong dosage, omitting drugs, and shortage of drugs (Pelzang & Hutchinson, 2018). As in the case mentioned above, if a patient has been diagnosed with tuberculosis, due to lack of knowledge, a healthcare worker may give them the wrong medication or expired ones to manage the disease.

Due to burning out, other health care workers may omit some medication without their knowledge or give them half a dosage instead of a full dosage.

Inadequate staffing in health care organizations also results in patient safety issues. For instance, a health care worker may be assigned three or four patients during their shift, which results in overworking the hospital staff members. In such cases, health care workers may neglect to attend to some of their assigned patients resulting in injuries such as patients falling from their beds, infections from catheters, or getting pressure ulcers because of lying in one position for a long time. According to research conducted by Pelzang & Hutchinson (2018) in Bhutan health care institutions, they identify several strategies that will help improve patient safety in hospitals. Participants in the study recommended the development of governance and policies to reduce patient safety issues.

Provision of patient safety training in health care facilities should be conducted since health care workers have inadequate knowledge associated with providing and practicing patient safety in hospitals (Songur et al., 2018). This will help reduce the patient safety issues taking place in hospitals since the staff will know what to do when handling patients. The training should contain clear and concise guidelines and protocols. For instance, training and education should address medical safety, diagnostic errors, hospital-acquired infections, injuries, and surgical errors.

In summary, having discussed safety issues in health care services and evidence-based practice solutions to resolve safety issues, health care workers need to be vigilant when it comes to handling patients to prevent the above problems from happening. Despite the challenges, health care workers go through in hospitals such as burn-out, it is also better for hospitals to ensure proper staffing to prevent patient safety issues.

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