Bridging the Gap: Increasing Patient Empowerment and Autonomy

Jomarie Villas Deondo, RN, MANc, Patient Safety Nurse
Patient Safety Committee

Promoting Patient Engagement towards Patient Safety

Introduction

Involvement of patients in the design and implementation of their therapy path is a form of treatment plan engagement, including active involvement, commitment and participation. It is not merely to comply with instructions; it requires that the justification for each aspect of a treatment program and its potential benefits are understood. Engaged patients are also more likely to comply with their therapy regimen, take ownership of their condition and establish a strong working relationship with the healthcare provider.

CONTACT

Jomarie V. Deondo, RN, MANc
Tondo Medical Center
jomarievillas0824@gmail.com
(02) 8865-9000 loc 1065
https://tmc.doh.gov.ph

Suggestions

All official forms that are used and disclosed to patients and relatives are in Tagalog/ English format to promote better understanding. Patients and relatives are encouraged to participate in their plan of care and have given the full autonomy to decide for their own. A PechaKucha on the wheels method, an on-the-go television with pre-recorded lectures, will be rotated on each unit to show topics which will be beneficial to their patients and relatives even on the transition of care. Topics will be focusing to importance of adherence to medication, wound management, Infection control, diet, rehabilitation exercises, importance of a strong support system, and most especially on Patient Safety.

Barriers

The people concerned often speak different languages, have different levels of education and competence, different attitudinal and priorities in life and generally understand things differently (Hartley, 2004). The variety of roots of patients and healthcare workers are the conflicting variable for all actions of any organization, hence focusing on those aspects is a very crucial part.

Facilitators

Administrators, Healthcare providers, and other institutional organizations and committees can support health promotion efforts.

Possible Outcomes

Meaningful patient and healthcare provider partnerships ensures that the patient voice is at the heart of every standards of care. It also assists the patient to manage their situation and make informed decision. They will be able to take charge of themselves in the transition of care.

Conclusion

Our focus is to involve patients and caregivers at the earliest stages of treatment. While there are many means to engage patients, technologies must also be utilize to keep at low costs, satisfy patients, engage staff, and lead to desired health outcomes. The goals of patient engagement focus on three points: to drive better health and outcomes, to empower patients and caregivers to be active in their own care, and to reduce costs.

REFERENCES

Hartley, S. (2004, October 1).Bridging the gap between health care professionals and communities. PubMed Central (PMC). https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1705732/