



Presenter: Scarlett Ruud

Session & Time: Poster_III / 2:00 to 2:50pm

Room: Guzman Lecture Hall

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Luanne Linnard Palmer

Digital Portfolio URL: n/a

Title: Impact of Nurse-to-Patient Ratios on Patient Safety: Exploring Fall Risk and Medication Errors in Medical-Surgical Hospital Units

Abstract:

Abstract

Medical-surgical departments within hospital settings are facing increasing adverse patient events that are associated with nurse-to-patient ratios. The number of patients assigned to one nurse plays a significant role in patient falls and medication errors. Recently published research has shown that lower nurse-to-patient ratios are associated with fewer falls and medication errors, while higher ratios, can increase the risk of negative patient health outcomes. The impact

of nurse staffing levels on patient falls and medication errors will be reviewed in this study. A proposed study on the effectiveness of the Tailored Interventions for Patient Safety (TIPS) tool in reducing falls in understaffed medical-surgical units will also be explored. The study will also analyze how nurse compliance with this tool impacts fall prevention outcomes, in an effort to determine effective staffing strategies and improve patient safety in medical-surgical units.

The main subtopics included in this paper that will be explored include:

- The impact of nurse-to-patient ratios on patient falls
- The impact of nurse-to-patient ratios on medication errors
- The role of structured, evidence-based interventions in improving patient safety in medical-surgical units

A review of these topics and subtopics will be covered in this literature review and proposed research study.