

Recommendations for Nursing Staff Education on the Use of Anticoagulants

Gena Brumley, Kayla Harless, Clara Spriggs, Madison Steele, Kaitlin Williams; Suzi White, MSN, RN, Mentor
NURB 361 Introduction to Nursing Research: Baccalaureate Nursing Program



Evidence-Based Protocol

In the 24 articles reviewed and analyzed, it was found that overall, patients expressed a lack of knowledge about anticoagulation therapy. Nurses have the primary responsibility for medication education. The research identified new ways to incorporate education about the use of anticoagulation therapies to improve patient outcomes.

Purpose

To assess nursing staff education on the use of inpatient anticoagulation therapy and identify gaps in knowledge or practice

Background

Without proper staff education regarding the purpose of anticoagulation therapy, patients are placed at risk and overall outcomes are poor. The objective of the research is to improve nursing staff education on the use of inpatient anticoagulation therapy. Information was gathered from the nursing staff of a large, urban teaching hospital regarding their policy on anticoagulation therapy. When asked if these policies were implemented, the nursing staff denied their use. Nursing staff claimed there was a lack of time to educate patients. Since patients receive anticoagulation prophylactically, the nursing staff felt as if there isn't a significant need for education. A more proactive approach would be to provide education to all patients who are prescribed anticoagulation therapy. Our goal is to improve staff education thereby enhancing patient outcomes.

Benefits of and Barriers to Implementation

Benefits:

- Enhanced nursing staff education
- Improved patient education
- Prevention of adverse conditions such as deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism
- Assurance of safe and effective patient care
- Increased patient compliance in relation to receiving anticoagulation therapy education

Barriers:

- Increase time needed for nursing staff to educate patients
- Increase time needed to educate nursing staff on new protocols
- Low patient health literacy and technological capability level

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Recommendations include:

Compliance with current facility policies regarding education through use of the following:

- Assess patient current knowledge about anticoagulation therapy upon admission
- Include results of assessment in plan of care
- Individualize education based on patient's identified learning needs and best learning style
- Get Well Network (via television) delivered anticoagulation therapy education
- Return demonstration of injection of anticoagulation therapy if the patient is being discharged on the medication
- Family and caregiver education, as appropriate



Clinical Implications

- Nursing staff will have a better understanding regarding their professional role in patient education on anticoagulation therapies
- Safe and effective care will be provided to patients on anticoagulation therapy
- Interprofessional care teams will work with nursing staff to obtain better understanding regarding patient education on anticoagulation therapy
- New teaching strategies and protocol will be easily accessible to nursing staff to better serve and educate patients