Enhancing Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs with Nurse-Led Interdisciplinary Rounds

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Statement of the problem: Every year, millions of people in the United States are diagnosed with a multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO), leading to increased costs and mortality rates. The overuse and misuse of antimicrobial therapies are contributing factors to the rise in MDROs which causes antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASPs) can help decrease AMR within the healthcare setting. Method used to address the problem: The purpose of this project was to develop, implement, and evaluate a nurse-led interdisciplinary ASP within the acute care setting. Description of innovation and resulting change: An online descriptive survey was completed by bedside nurses before and after the implementation of interdisciplinary stewardship rounds. Education on antimicrobial stewardship was provided to the bedside nurses using various tools. The implementation of this process was guided by the IOWA Model of Evidence-Based Practice as the supporting framework. Engaging nurses and integrating nursing practice into ASPs led to the discontinuation of antibiotic therapy in a timely manner, the removal of unnecessary invasive catheters, and the rationalization of necessary treatments. Additionally, bedside nurses gained more knowledge regarding ASPs and the pivotal role they play in making a difference in AMR. Recommendations: Nurse-led interdisciplinary rounds are an effective strategy to implement and strengthen ASPs within the acute care setting. Connecting the role of the bedside nurse to the difference they can make in AMR reveals that nurses who are educated and trained in antimicrobial stewardship can result in better outcomes for patients.