Nursing 488: Patient Safety/Root Cause Analysis Project (Paper and Presentation)

**Project Overview:** This capstone project will provide students the opportunity to apply key actions and principles of quality/safety and root cause analysis, as well as additional relevant course content. Students will select a case from the literature or from the media to base their project upon. Each team will prepare both a written narrative paper and an in class oral presentation.

**Step #1: Group Formation:**  Students will be placed in groups. This will be the same group used for your discussion boards.

**Step #2 Case Selection:** Each group will select **one** significant medical error case either from peer reviewed literature or the media.

**Step 3 Summary of the Case:** Each group will develop a brief one page (single or double space) overview of the case to share in class. Include major highlights. What happened and to whom, where (hospital setting), and key circumstances. **(1 page summary non-graded. Post in week 3).**

**Step 4 Identifying the Team:** In this step, you will identify the health care professionals that you would want on your root cause analysis team. Be sure to describe their role and why you have selected them.

**Step 4 Fact Gathering-documents:** In this step, you will identify what documents you would want to review pertaining to the particular case? What specifically do you want to learn from each document? What questions do you wish to answer?

**Step 5 Fact Gathering-people:** There are two specific components in this step. The first would be to identify what specific members of the healthcare team you wish to interview. What questions would you want to pose to each of the team members? What information do you wish to gain?

**The second phase of this step is expert consultation**. Each group will actually consult 4 experts concerning the case. Examples of experts might be staff nurses experience in caring for the particular type of patient, nurse managers, quality improvement experts, and other individuals that the group may deem beneficial in terms of information that they may provide. The purpose of this is to gain information concerning best practices related to your particular case as well as error prevention strategies.

**Step 5 Incorporating the EMR:** Using any available electronic medical record as a framework, what particular aspects of the EMR would be integral to the particular case? What particular alarms or safeguards might have been useful in the prevention of the medical error in your case?

**Step 6 Developing the Root Cause:** The root cause of the error may also have been identified in the media, but if not, you may hypothetically develop this. Make sure it makes sense based on the questions you have asked and information you have collected.

**Step 7 Develop a risk reduction plan:** Based on the root cause that you have identified, develop a risk reduction plan to prevent an error such as this from taking place. You must incorporate one change theory that has been covered in the course. You should use information from your experts as well as peer reviewed literature (use at least 4 references). Be sure to include a timeline outlining the sequence of events. Assign accountability and responsibility for each step to an appropriate individual. Incorporate principles from at least two areas of course content beyond quality/ safety and change theory. Examples might include, but are not limited to financial management, staffing and scheduling, or delegation.

**Written Paper**

Each group will prepare a 7 to 8 page typewritten paper excluding title page and references. Use 12 point Times New Roman Font. Your paper is to be prepared using APA 6th edition format. Use 1 inch margins. Your paper is to include the following:

1. An appropriate introduction, body, and conclusion.

2. A relevant section of comprehensively addressing each of the steps identified above.

The grading criteria are as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Paper includes a clear and coherent introduction, body, and conclusion. | 0-5 points |
| Paper includes a concise and coherent summary of the case including description of the error, type of institution involved, and other key events surrounding the case | 0-5 points |
| Members selected for the root cause analysis team and rationale for selection are appropriately identified | 0-3 points |
| Fact Gathering:  **Documents**: Specific documents to be reviewed are identified as well as what is to be  learned, rationale for selection, and questions to be answered | 0-5 points |
| Fact Gathering:  **People**: Members of the healthcare team to be interviewed, rationale for selection, and questions to be asked are clearly presented. Appropriate experts, rational, and questions are clearly articulated | 0-7 points |
| Incorporating the EMR: Specific aspects of the Electronic Medical record that may be relevant to the case are clearly identified. Rationale for selection is also include | 0-5 points |
| Developing the root cause: An actual or hypothetically developed root cause for the error is identified. This is logical based on the information provided | 0-5 points |
| Risk reduction plan: A comprehensive risk reduction plan is presented. This includes clearly identified strategies, appropriate reference support from the literature, a time line, and responsible party for each strategy. Plan includes incorporation of a change theory and at least 2 areas of course content beyond quality/safety and change | 0-10 points |
| APA format: Paper is prepared using APA 6th edition format. Appropriate headings are used throughout the paper--- | 0-2 points |
| Correct spelling and grammar is used throughout the paper | 0-2 points |
| Paper adheres to the prescribed length of 7 to 8 pages, excluding title page and references | 1 point |
| **Total points possible=** | **50** |

\*\*\*\*\*Additional Criteria. Students must include a document that details individual student contributions to the project as an appendix to the paper. Minimal or no contributions to the effort will result in adjustments in grades for students who fail to adequately contribute.

**In Class Oral presentation**

Each group will also present a 20 minute in class oral presentation **with Power Point and Audio**. The presentation will address all of the key content areas in the written paper, but in a concise fashion. The grading criteria for this assignment are as follows:

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| Presentation addresses all of the identified content areas that are included in the paper in a clear and coherent fashion | 14 points |
| All students participate and present a portion of the presentation  (\*\*this will be deducted from any student who fails to participate) | 3 points |
| Proper APA format is used. All references are appropriately cited | 3 points |
| Presentation adheres to 20 minute guideline | 2 points |
| **Total points possible=** | **25 points** |

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