Avoiding Failure to Rescue Situations: A Simulation Exercise for Oncology Nurses

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This project aimed to improve RNs’ recognition of and appropriate responses to failure to rescue situations on a surgical oncology unit. Simulation exercises played a key role in identifying areas of strength, opportunities for improvement, and development of a personalized education plan. In addition, the exercises improved RNs’ clinical confidence.

Simulation Exercise for Hospital-Based Nurses

Simulation in nursing staff education helps improve self-confidence, clinical judgment, and problem-solving abilities (Classen, 2010; Ellis et al., 2008). Simulation also offers opportunities for unlimited practice of rare and critical events in a safe and controlled environment without risk to patients (Decker, Sportsman, Puetz, & Billings, 2008; Friese & Aiken, 2008). High-fidelity simulation using scenarios of various health problems and complications tends to foster team collaboration and communication (Johnson, Zerwic, & Theis, 1999; Lasater, 2007). Recommendations from the 2009 Institute of Medicine Forum on the Future of Nursing encouraged healthcare providers to focus on interdisciplinary teamwork and establish training programs that incorporate simulation in patient safety (Nagle, McHale, Alexander, & French, 2009). Simulation training in the hospital leads to improved patient outcomes and a reduction in errors as it strengthens cohesiveness and communication among the entire team (Granger, Hebb, Lavallec, & Murray, 2011).