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Developing Problem Solving Guideline, Checklist and SBAR Tools for Precepting Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Nurses in the Hospital Setting

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Rarely performed PD nursing procedures create unique training opportunities for dialysis nurses who work in the hospital setting. In addition, these procedures are frequently performed late at night by "on call" dialysis staff. Bringing newly precepted RNs up to speed on PD acute assessments and procedures in the hospital setting is challenging.

Using the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) method to investigate PD practice standards in the hospital setting helped this preceptor to focus on the problem. A literature review, Evidence Table and PICO question were created. Literature in the Evidence Table validated current practices but there were very few tools for precepting rarely performed PD skills.

PICO Question: Can hands on PD training with a "Dummy Tummy", bullet points, and SBAR tools increase confidence and ability of nurses new to dialysis to perform solo on call duties?

The Workshop was conducted for 3 RN staff who were new to dialysis. It included hands on use of supplies and a "Dummy Tummy" for procedures most often performed by "on call" PD staff (peritonitis work up, repair for hole in catheter, adding medications). Evaluation comments from workshop showed some gain in skills and knowledge, but that there was a need for guidelines and problem solving tips for new staff. Using updated policies as a guide, new training tools were created including an SBAR sheet, problem solving guide, and PD Key Concepts. Journal articles found during the literature search were added to the reading list for preceptees. Three RNs who recently completed PD training evaluated and edited the new tools. The new tools will be incorporated into the PD training program at our hospital.

There will always be back up mentors for our less experienced dialysis staff, but these tools will help new staff gain confidence and make the journey from novice to expert.

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