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Growing Relationships: A Project to Reduce Hospital Noise

Jennifer DeBerg
*University of Iowa*

Mindwell Egeland
*University of Iowa*

Sharon Tucker
*University of Iowa*

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Growing Relationships: A Project to Reduce Hospital Noise

Mindwell Egeland, MA
Director, Patients’ Library, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

Jennifer DeBerg, MLS, OT
Nursing Librarian, Haeiun Library of the Health Sciences, University of Iowa

Sharon Tucker, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC
Director of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

Purpose
- The purpose of this poster is to share details about collaboration between a hospital librarian, a nursing librarian, and a nursing administrator to impact quality of care at a large public teaching hospital in Iowa.
- The process for improving quality of care started with a campaign to promote staff awareness of patient satisfaction and noise and evolved into the HUSH initiative to improve noise levels on patient units.
- The project has involved increasing nursing staff awareness of evidence-based strategies to lower noise levels on selected hospital units.

The Problem
- Patient satisfaction survey results and comments have indicated that noise is a problem.
- One of the publicly reported questions that impacts CMS reimbursement (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services) is about hospital quietness.

The Project

LibGuide created for summarizing research on noise

Nursing librarian conducted a thorough literature search related to the following themes:
- Hospitals are noisy
- Hospital noise impacts patient sleep
- Noise impacts health
- Noise impacts patient and family satisfaction
- Noise reduction strategies work

Various noise reduction strategies, including earplugs, sound conditioners, “Yacker Tracker” stop lights, decibel meters, iPad/iPhone apps, and headphones

Outcomes
- Enhanced librarian understanding of information needs of nursing leaders and staff
- Improved librarian awareness of how to best format and disseminate research summary for nursing leaders and staff
- Publicized findings through staff intranet, blog post, and delivered presentations at nursing meetings
- Continued evaluation of the project’s impact on patient and practice measures
- Strengthened partnerships between librarians and nursing leaders and staff with continued opportunities for growth