

communication strategies to support effective policy-making-presentation visits

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One of the key areas emphasized in many healthcare facilities is the safety of the patients. Almost every healthcare facility has implemented policies regarding patient safety. However, one policy that caught my attention recently is the minimum number of nurses staffed in a department at any given time, or simply the nurse-to-patient ratio. In the state of Florida, the nurse-to-patient ratio is always one nurse to four patients in the surgical department.

According to evidence-based research, the nurse-to-patient ratio is one of the crucial factors that determine the safety of the patients. A high nurse-to-patient ratio elevates the risks of fatigue, medication errors, falls, and infections (Nijkamp & Foran, 2021; Twigg et al., 2021). Over the years, there have been safe patient ratio campaigns in America geared towards enhancing safe staffing. In my opinion, the number of nurses in the surgical department in the state of Florida needs to be increased as this will increase the safety of the patients as well as the nurses. Therefore, it is important for policymakers to pass and implement a bill aimed at lowering the nurse-to-patient ratio in the state of Florida. Effective communication is essential for achieving the goals of the policy. In my plan to ensure the bill towards increasing the patient-to-nurse ratio is implemented, I will draft an outline of the policy and arrange a meeting with the members of the legislative assembly of the state of Florida. The paper addresses communication strategies that support effective policy-making-presentation visits.

Key Strategies for Plan, Message, and Recommendations

Drafting an outline of the policy and arranging a meeting with the members of the Florida legislature are some of the key strategies in my plan. I will consider the best means possible to communicate with the members of the legislative assembly of Florida. My priority is to meet the members of the Florida legislature face to face, but if that is not possible, I will look for alternatives such as telephone calls, writing a letter, or even emailing (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2023). When sharing the message concerning the nurse-to-patient ratio policy, I will use facts and statistics in the surgical departments in Florida hospitals to show how important it is to implement the policy. I will recommend that the nurse-to-patient ratio should be lowered to two patients for every nurse. In so doing, the risks of fatigue, medication errors, falls, and infections among the nurses will be reduced, and thus, the safety of the patients and the nurses will be improved. I will also recommend that the surgical departments should be well-equipped to facilitate proper service delivery, which improves the safety of the patients.

Analysis of Empirical Evidence

According to the American Nurses Association (2023), it is important for one to be properly acquainted with the legislator's campaign and be audible during the conversation, as this shapes the opinions of the legislator towards the healthcare topic. These are some of the strategies I will employ in driving the nursing policy home. I will also research the healthcare issue and plan ahead of time, as this will assist me in getting straight to the point when communicating the policy to the members of the legislative assembly. During the discussion, I will present the essential issues related to the nurse-to-patient ratio according to priority. One should not stay for too long during the visit and should make the necessary efforts to solve the issue at hand during the first visit. Therefore, I will observe time strictly and address the policy on my first visit to the legislator. For the purposes of follow-up, I will leave my contacts, including my phone number and email address, to the legislator, who will facilitate subsequent communications and visits (Finnell et al., 2023).

Impacts of a Successful Visit

A nurse should be an advocate, and this is important to ensure the success of the visit. A specific example where the nurse-a-patient ratio policy has been implemented is in Canada. The law has proved effective in reducing falls, fatigue, infections, and medication errors among nurses, hence increasing the safety of the patients and nurses in Canada. As a result, I will show the legislator how important it is to implement the same policy in the state of Florida.

Conclusion

A lower nurse-to-patient ratio results in reduced risks of fatigue, falls, medication errors, and infections, which enhances the safety of both the patients and the nurses (Nijkamp & Foran, 2021; Twigg et al., 2021). Some of the key strategies for achieving my plans were drafting an outline and arranging a meeting with the members of the legislative assembly in Florida. Facts and statistics in the surgical departments in Florida were used when sharing the message concerning the healthcare policy. Florida has a nurse-to-patient ratio of one nurse for every four patients, and thus, my recommendation is for the ratio to be lowered to one nurse for every two patients to increase the safety of the patients and the nurses. Time was properly observed to avoid overstaying, and the matter at hand was addressed during the first visit. The role of the nurse as an advocate was also employed in ensuring the success of the visit.

References

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