

Nursing Handoff Report Guideline

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In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

Doctor of Nursing Practice

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Date of Submission: January 29, 2019

### Abstract

Communication between healthcare professionals is a critical period in the exchange of patient information to ensure patient safety and continuity of care. It has been reported that preventable medical errors have resulted in 98,000 patient deaths per year in the United States. The identified problem in the Preoperative Treatment Unit at an urban Los Angeles hospital is the lack of standardization during the handoff transition at break reliefs and at shift change. The purpose of this doctoral project is to apply evidence-based practices of handoff reports for standardization to improve staff satisfaction and perception of handoff quality. This doctoral project aimed to decrease sentinel event rates and to assess the nurses' perception and satisfaction of the handoff process before and after the implementation of the Nursing Handoff Report Guideline (NHRG). The implementation process began with a comprehensive literature review and collaboration with key stakeholders. The nursing staff was asked to complete the pre-survey of their current perception and satisfaction, followed by an educational in-service meeting. After the four-week period, the nursing staff completed the post-survey, with results inputted into SPSS for evaluation using the paired t-test. Results demonstrated there was a statistically significant increase in the nurses' satisfaction and perception of handoff reports utilizing the NHRG. Further observation is needed to evaluate the NHRG's effect on sentinel event rates. This doctoral project promotes the nursing profession by developing nursing communication, endorsing patient safety, and ensuring continuity of care.

*Keywords:* standardized handoff report, handoff satisfaction, handoff checklist

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