

Violence Reduction: Development and Evaluation of De-escalation Training in the Management of Aggressive Patients

Jennifer Krebsbach, RN, BSN, DNP-PMHNP Student

Faculty Chair: Pamela Bjorklund, Ph.D., APRN, CNS-BC, PMHNP-BC

The purpose of this quality improvement project was to implement a practice change on the adult mental health unit at a rural hospital in the Upper Midwest to improve the accuracy and increase the rate of completion of the abnormal involuntary movement scale (AIMS). Results showed that post-intervention confidence levels improved among the RNs. The overall rate of completion of the AIMS increased by 50% for AIMS screening upon admission and 67% for total AIMS screening requirements among applicable patients. It can be concluded that revising the behavioral health AIMS flowsheet and expectations for documentation improved the rate of AIMS completion and supported improved management of tardive dyskinesia in the mental health unit.

Keywords: Tardive dyskinesia, abnormal involuntary movement scale, antipsychotics, mental health