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Objective:

Upon completion of the lecture, attendees should be better prepared to:

- Examine knowledge deficits involving burn care delivered in the emergency room setting
- Summarize the education program developed to enhance emergency department nurses' knowledge of burn care
- Evaluate emergency department nurses' responses following participation in the developed burn care training program

Abstract:

Introduction: The American Burn Association transfer criteria established criteria for patients who are appropriate to receive burn care and be discharged from the emergency department (ED) rather than being admitted to the burn unit. ED nurses were often unfamiliar with burn care and required assistance from burn unit nursing staff in order to provide the wound care needed by burn-injured patients to be discharged directly from the ED.

Methods: An educational program was developed to increase nurse knowledge and skills regarding burn care in the emergency department. ED nurses completed the Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) course, as well as shadowing in the burn clinic and participation in hands-on burn dressing training. Additionally, a lecture on burn care and pathophysiology was added to the required in-hospital trauma course.

Results: Program evaluations from the burn clinic experience and the ABLS courses showed favorable responses from participating nurses. Between June 2016 and June 2018, the Emergency Department sent 102 team members through the Burn Clinic and 27 ED RNs from the Trauma Bay through the ABLS course. The Burn Clinic experience and ABLS course have become mandatory education for the ED nurses working in the trauma room as well as all new hire team members in the ED. Nurses from both the burn unit and the ED have developed a system providing mutual support and assistance. This support includes streamlining communication to ensure patients who will be discharged and or delayed more than for hours for an inpatient bed will receive care from a nurse who has completed the burn wound training.

Conclusions: Prior to the development of this educational program, ED nurses did not receive focused education or hands-on training in burn wound care. Since the implementation of the guidelines and training, the knowledge base has increased, and ED nurses have reported increased comfort levels in providing care to burn patients. Future research opportunities include assessing the outcomes of patients who

received treatment in the ED and evaluating the situations in which burn nursing staff are requested for care in the ED in order to refine and improve the process.

References and Resources:

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Disclosure:

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