

NATIONAL NEWS

Quality Improvement Education Lacking in Nursing Programs, Study Finds

Posted on: December 17, 2009

[View Comments \(0\)](#)

[Print Article](#)

[Email Article](#)

[Share](#)    ...

A new study, "New Nurses' Views of Quality Improvement Education," published in the January 2010 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* finds despite the strong focus on quality improvement (QI) in hospitals, 38.6 percent of novice nurses feel they were "poorly" or "very poorly" prepared in their nursing education programs to implement QI measures or "had never heard of" QI.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the researchers analyzed the survey responses from 436 newly-licensed registered nurses from 34 states and the District of Columbia (69.4 percent response rate). While many nurses may observe problems and understand the need for improvement, many felt unprepared to undertake the actions necessary to do so.

QI is a systematic, data-driven set of activities designed to bring about immediate improvement in the delivery of healthcare and ultimately in patient outcomes. A growing body of research shows a direct link between nurses' actions and patient safety, quality of care, and cost savings as a result of improvements, according to the Joint Commission.

Survey participants' views of their QI preparation varied dramatically depending on the specific content area. For example, a majority felt they were "very prepared" in patient-centered care, yet half of participants felt they were "not at all prepared" to utilize specific QI techniques, such as root-cause analysis.

Those respondents to the study who had earned bachelor's degrees reported significantly higher levels of preparation than associate degree program graduates in evidence-based practice, assessing gaps in practice, teamwork and collaboration, as well as many of the research skills such as data collection, analysis, measurement, and measuring resulting changes.

In an accompanying editorial, "Quality Improvement Education for Nurses: We Can Do Better," noted nurse staffing researcher, Peter I. Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, Valere Potter Professor, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, called the results "disturbing" and added they "provide a wake-up call to educators and employers that

they must do better."

Still, many novice nurses did not perceive their QI training from their employers as helpful, prompting the study authors to suggest this finding required additional study. The authors also recommend nurse educators partner with hospitals to implement more effective QI education, jointly introducing students to the methods healthcare organizations use and make specific QI projects a requirement for graduation.

National News Archives

POST A COMMENT

Email: *

Email, first name, comment and security code are required fields; all other fields are optional. With the exception of email, any information you provide will be displayed with your comment.

Name: First * Last

Work: Title Field Facility

Location: City State

Comments: *

To prevent comment spam, please type the code you see below into the code field before submitting your comment. If you cannot read the numbers in the below image, reload the page to generate a new one.



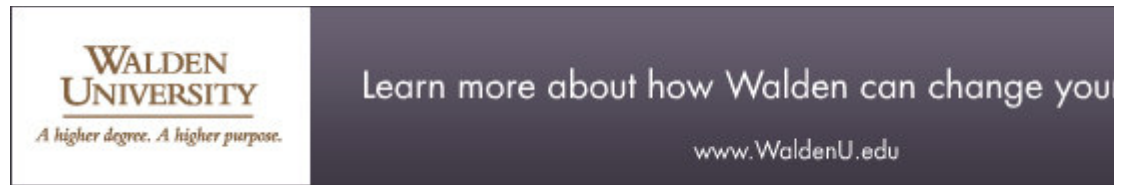
Enter the security code below: *

- Receive emails when a new comment is posted
- Remember me on this computer

POST COMMENT **RESET**

Fields marked with an * are required.

Search articles...



The banner features the Walden University logo on the left, which includes the text "WALDEN UNIVERSITY" in a serif font and the tagline "A higher degree. A higher purpose." below it. To the right of the logo, the text "Learn more about how Walden can change you" is displayed in a white sans-serif font against a dark purple background. Below this text, the website address "www.WaldenU.edu" is also shown in white.

PUBLICATIONS Nurses | Imaging & Radiation Oncology | Physical Therapy and Rehab Medicine | Occupational Therapy Prac
Audiologists | Audiologists | Long-Term Care Management | Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine | Administratc
Professionals | Health Information Executives | Health Information Professionals | Nurse Practitioners | Physic

SERVICES ADVANCE Healthcare Shop | ADVANCE Healthcare Shop Live | ADVANCE Custom Promotions | Healthcare
Custom Publishing | Recruitment Solutions Center

CORPORATE About Us | Contact Us | Link to Us | Advertise | Work for ADVANCE | Subscribe | Privacy Policy | Terms of Se

© 2009 Merion Publications | 2900 Horizon Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 | 800-355-5627 | Publishers of AD'