

International E-Conference on

NURSING AND HEALTH CARE

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***Erica Edfort, DNP, MN, NVRN-BC, FAHA**

Chamberlain University, USA

Varsha Singh, DNP, APN, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, USA

Stroke Education for APNs: How can they improve the care process?

Background: The 1st state-wide study investigating the perceptions of stroke care in New Jersey, identified lack of documentation of stroke pathway/orders as one of the reasons affecting outcomes of care (Edfort, 2010). The issue identified as a reason for the missed measures at some hospitals were related to lack of documentation. Some items that were identified as affecting stroke care compliance were:

- Deep vein Thrombosis treatment by end of day 2- 79%
- Screen for dysphagia before oral intake– 77%
- Stroke prevention education- 72%

Objective: The need for guideline compliance for acute stroke care is an ongoing problem for all healthcare facilities. Edfort (2010) recommended implementing processes to address the deficiencies in stroke guideline compliance.

Method: In 2017, a second state-wide stroke study was conducted in New Jersey implementing Dr. Edfort's recommendations for improving stroke core measure compliance (Singh, 2017). This study identified the necessity of educating Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) in stroke core measure management. APNs are front line staff in most acute care hospitals with prescribing capabilities; however, they may not be knowledgeable in the measures needed to manage stroke patients.

Results: Attending a stroke specific education program, attendees reported increasing their knowledge of managing stroke patients as well as increasing their proficiency level in care processes.

Conclusion: Providing an education program focusing on the core measures provides an advantage to our patients as well as keeping the health care facility in compliance with stroke management protocols.

Keywords: stroke, patient care, APNs, education

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Biography:

I have over 15 years' experience as a stroke health care professional working with several hospitals systems developing the protocols to manage the care of the acute stroke patient. I have many years' experience educating stroke patients, family members, the community and a variety of stroke health care professionals through the state of New Jersey to provide the highest level of care possible. As an educator, I now teach my students the processes to follow to provide appropriate levels of care for the acute stroke patient.