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ON THE BEAT: Partnering with Security for a Safer Nursing Environment

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ON THE BEAT: Partnering with Security for a Safer Nursing Environment

Transitional Trauma Unit

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Background:

The unexpected nature of trauma brings stress to patients and families. Their behaviors can be unpredictable at times, leaving nurses to feel concerned for their safety.

- 30 semi-private bed medical surgical trauma unit
- Patient population includes:
 - Blunt trauma (MVA, MCA), penetrating trauma (GSW), stabbings), multiple psycho/social issues including substance abuse, brain injuries, SCI
- Family Presence for designated family member, 24/7
- Locked Unit
 - Security badge issued by staff at central security desk for all visitors
- Offer "do not announce" status for patients to protect privacy and enhanced perception of security



Collaborative Safety Rounds:

- Charge nurse and security personnel huddle twice daily at 0815 and 2015
- Notification to security of situational dependent patients and visitors
- Security log with documentation of rounding frequency
- Ability to increase frequency of huddles determined by unit situational security needs
- Security officers round on entire unit every four hours

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Outcomes:

- Security rounding fosters quicker response to situational events
- Prior background knowledge fosters improved communication between security officers, unit staff and patients and visitors
- Fosters greater sense of personal safety for staff, patients and visitors
- Visuality of rounding security officers resulted in decreased frequency of situational events

Implications for Nursing:

- Unique partnership has lead to a stronger bond between unit staff and security officers
- Bond enhanced the working relationship of unit staff and security officers
- Early de-escalation of situational events fosters increased unit staff satisfaction and availability for patient care
- Minimal cost to initiate and implement ensures universal ability for utilization in healthcare facilities

