

# The Impact of Nursing Skill Competency on Patient Outcomes: A Quality Improvement Project

Abby Blair, Riley Boling, Natalie Crace, Jascie Greene, Peyton Kennedy, Andrew Morris, Joseph Sewell, & Abigail Wesselkamper

Mentor: Dr. Suzi White DNP, RN, PHCNS-BC  
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## Abstract

45 out of 50 facilities that implemented continued education saw improved patient outcomes. This presentation focuses on the importance of nurse participation in continued professional development programs because it is a shortcoming that we noticed in clinical practice.

## Definition

Competent- The ability of a nurse to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, judgment, and attitudes required to perform activities within defined scope of practice at an acceptable level of proficiency.

## Clinical Implications

- Nurses will feel more confident in discussing patient care and performing nursing skills.
- Improving clinical competency ensures decreased workload for nurses in the long run
- Providing all nurses will continuing professional development will decrease the occurrence of sentinel events. Peer-to-peer collaboration fosters a team environment and provides an opportunity for constructive criticism.
- With better training methods, nurses will be able to provide better patient care to more patients with diverse health problems.
- Improved clinical education will promote an equitable standard of care for nursing staff

## Review of literature

A thorough literature review of 64 studies was conducted, with the primary focus of continuing clinical competency for nursing staff. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to find barriers and solutions to increasing competency in the healthcare setting. It has been shown that patient outcomes are much better in hospitals that provide continued education. Cross training, where nurses from separate specialties come together and train the staff on how to work on different units, has shown to decrease burn out and help prepare nurses to work on different units in the case of a medical emergency. Giving autonomy to nurses to allow them to independently make decisions for the care of their patients has also shown to decrease burnout and increase the willingness of nurses to attend educational meetings. Different forms of education has shown increased attendance to educational meetings; such as online competency videos and virtual simulation classes.

## Teaching Tool

