Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Competencies Perceived by Perioperative Nurses

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Background

- Perioperative nurses are key healthcare professionals for continuously improving the quality and safety of care in perioperative settings, leading to better care, outcomes, and costs

- Literature is limited about practicing nurses' perceptions of their QSEN competencies, and no literature could be found regarding perioperative nurses' perceptions of their QSEN competencies

- Insights about QSEN competencies specific to nurses working in high-risk settings, such as perioperative nurses, are needed

Purpose

- To describe perioperative nurses' perceptions of their QSEN competencies

Method

- A descriptive, cross-sectional study using survey methodology was employed

- A convenience sample of members of AORN* were invited to complete an online survey

- RNs providing direct patient care at least 50% of the time in perioperative environments and having at least one year of nursing experience post-residency/orientation were eligible

- The perceptions of QSEN competencies were measured using an adapted version of the Quality Improvement Survey developed by Kovner et al.

Results

- 654 perioperative nurses completed the survey
- The survey consisted of 25 items with 3-point (*Not at all prepared, Somewhat prepared, Very prepared*) and 5-point response sets (*Never, Once, More than once but less than once a month, Once per month, More than once per month*)

Demographic Characteristics	M(SD) or N(%)
Age	51.6 (10.5)
Gender: Female	573 (87.6%)
Race: White	510 (78%)
Education: BSN	344 (52.6%)
Role: Clinical Staff Nurse	377 (57.6%)
Nursing Experience (years)	25.6 (11.9)
Periop. Nursing Experience	21.6 (11.3)
Phase of Care: Intraoperative	551 (84.3%)
Work Setting: Hospital	503 (76.9%)

Preparedness in QSEN Competencies

- Most nurses reported being *very prepared* in patient-centered care (94%), teamwork and collaboration (90%), and evidence-based practice (70%)

- 56% or fewer reported being *very prepared* in 4 of the 8 safety items

- Between 29% and 54% reported being *very prepared* across quality improvement (QI) items

- 29% reported being not at all prepared to use QI models (e.g., PDSA, Lean)

Participation in QSEN Competencies over the last 12 months

- Perioperative nurses regularly participate in patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, and informatics

- 35% reported participating in a clinical effort or project to improve quality and/or safety of care in their unit at least *once* or *more than once per month*

- 20% to 46% *never* participated in certain QI activities (e.g., examining processes by using flowcharts and monitoring sustainability)

- 28% *never* engaged in assessing gaps in their practice or systematically applying tools and methods for improvement

Summary and Conclusions

- Lack of staff involvement in quality improvement is among the 10 key challenges in improving quality in healthcare

- Identifying and overcoming barriers regarding application of QSEN competencies are necessary for continuous healthcare system improvements

- Perioperative nurses need support to increase their preparation and application of some QSEN competences, particularly in QI

- Perioperative leaders should provide necessary resources and be accountable for action plans to apply and sustain QSEN competencies

- Future research should focus on investigating relationships between the application of QSEN competencies and outcomes

References

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