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Emergency Department Safety with a Psychiatric Unit

Sofia Splendore and Mallorie Sinter

EMERGENCY
ROOM

Introduction

Working in the emergency department (ED), staff are consistently subjected to unsafe work environments due to working with the general public. ED staff serve as the initial point of contact with patients entering the hospital to meet and care for the general public and provide medical care before admission or discharge. Safety in the ED is the staff's highest priority as they constantly have security on standby with them at all times. While safety is of the utmost importance, it is also critical to recognize other issues related to psychiatric patients utilizing the ED such as substance abuse, the lack of mental health education with ED nurses, and the effect of overstimulation on psychiatric patients and ED staff.

Hypothesis

Having a designated psychiatric unit within the emergency department with mental health staff will increase safety for patients and staff.

Results

A crucial statistical measure is the p-value, which assesses the likelihood of observing a result due to random fluctuation alone. In contrast, inferential statistics such as the p-value and T-test allow for the development of more broad deductions and conclusions. If the p-value is than 0.05, the results will be statistically significant, which will show that the hypothesis is true.

Method

Participants

- The research sample will be composed of 100 nurses. Inclusion criteria will include registered nurses working in the Emergency Department who have expertise in working with individuals with mental illnesses, those subjected to 5150 holds, and individuals subjected to 5250 holds.

Materials/Measurements

- The Behavioral and Symptom Identification Scale (BASIS-24) will be employed as one of the measurement instruments in the scope of this investigation concerning the establishment of a psychiatric institution in the emergency room (ER).

Procedure

- The survey questionnaires will consist of three questions for the nurse to respond to before and after the placement of a psychiatric unit.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the prevalence of violent events in the emergency department due to mental health patients are increasing every year and there has been little research to ease this issue. Even though these violent events have multi factor associations such as substance abuse, mental health education, and overstimulation, there is no concrete solution in place. This gap in research needs to be a priority in the emergency department not only for the safety of patients but for the safety of ED staff.

References

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Mental Health



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IRB: Will be approved