Navigating the Course from Diagnosis to Survivorship: The Implementation of the Nurse Navigator Role in a Pediatric Oncology Cancer Center

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Abstract

Background: Navigation is defined as the “guiding force permitting the timely and efficient delivery of care to an individual within an healthcare system or care delivery system.” Evidence-based leading adult cancer centers has shown that the implementation of a nurse navigator role has had significant improvement in care coordination, outcomes, and patient satisfaction in pediatric cancer programs, children and families with childhood cancer served. However, challenges in gaining diagnostic or navigators through systemic barriers. Currently, there is a need to expand the use of nurse navigators in pediatric oncology settings. This collaborative nursing leadership in a South Florida pediatric hospital was the collaborative leadership in the implementation of a nurse navigator role for the cancer center. The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role was implemented in this institution to provide care coordination and a central point of access for the families and the interdisciplinary team. A needs assessment survey showed that few family and patients diagnosed prior to the implementation program as well as the nurses involved in the multidisciplinary care and provided education to improve the process. The implementation was designed to improve access and enhance the collaboration between the different programs. The objectives of the program is to improve patient satisfaction and to provide education to the families and nurses involved in the different programs.

Objectives:

• To determine the feasibility of the implementation of a nurse navigator role in this institution for children and families with childhood cancer served.

• To assess the impact of the nurse navigator role on patient satisfaction, care coordination, and the overall experience for children and families with childhood cancer served.

Methods:

The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role was established in the context of the clinical improvement project. The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role is defined as the nurse who provides care coordination and patient advocacy in the pediatric oncology setting. The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role is responsible for the coordination and delivery of care to patients and families. The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role is also responsible for the education and support of patients and families. The Oncology-Nurse Navigator role is also responsible for the education and support of the interdisciplinary team.

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Conclusion:

The results of the survey indicated that the implementation of the Oncology-Nurse Navigator role had a positive impact on patient satisfaction, care coordination, and the overall experience for children and families with childhood cancer served. The implementation of the Oncology-Nurse Navigator role had a positive impact on patient satisfaction, care coordination, and the overall experience for children and families with childhood cancer served. The implementation of the Oncology-Nurse Navigator role had a positive impact on patient satisfaction, care coordination, and the overall experience for children and families with childhood cancer served. The implementation of the Oncology-Nurse Navigator role had a positive impact on patient satisfaction, care coordination, and the overall experience for children and families with childhood cancer served.

References:


Figure 1: Oncology-Nurse Navigator Role in the Pediatric Oncology Unit

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Figure 2: Oncology-Nurse Navigator Role in the Pediatric Oncology Unit

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