Effectiveness of Education on Postmortem Care

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Background
- Post-mortem care is often viewed as a challenging subject for the involved nursing staff.
- Research has also identified that institutional deaths will be an increasing trend over the next few decades.
- Educating staff on post-mortem practices is of increasing importance in the institutional setting, with the goal of increasing staff comfort with end-of-life practices.

Practice Change
Integrate an easily accessible resource to educate staff on postmortem care

Methods
- Administered anonymous paper pre-surveys to RNs
- Provided Postmortem education by having RNs read through Postmortem Care resource binder
- Administered anonymous paper post-surveys to RNs 3 days after education provided

Postmortem Resources & Education

Results
Comparison of Staff Confidence/Knowledge of Postmortem Care Pre and Post Binder Implementation

Pre-Survey Averages
- Q1: 3.5
- Q2: 3.6
- Q3: 3.7
- Q4: 3.8
- Q5: 3.9
- Q6: 4.0
- Q7: 4.1
- Q8: 4.2
- Q9: 4.3
- Q10: 4.4

Post Survey Averages
- Q1: 4.5
- Q2: 4.6
- Q3: 4.7
- Q4: 4.8
- Q5: 4.9
- Q6: 5.0
- Q7: 5.1
- Q8: 5.2
- Q9: 5.3
- Q10: 5.4

Summary/Discussion

Next Steps:
- Provide a post-mortem care educational binder to other units at NLEMMC
- Follow and track nursing’s confidence and ability to perform post-mortem care after they’ve reviewed the binder
- Continue to provide education to staff working in the clinical setting

Barriers of Study:
- Lack of time to complete pre- and post-surveys
- Lack of need for post-mortem care in unit during study

Conclusion
- Overall, post-mortem care education proved beneficial for P6 RN staff
- 25 of the 26 surveys expressed increase in RN staff confidence and knowledge of post-mortem care
- Barriers include: one binder for floor, lack of time for survey completion, and lack of need for post-mortem care during time of study
- Staff reported that post-mortem care binder was helpful and easy to navigate compared to previous policy formats
- From personal experience, the binder has been extremely helpful in navigating post-mortem care and the RNs duties