

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation Abstract Form

Acute rehabilitation departments (ARs) are complex environments where different disciplines provide patient care following stroke and other disabling conditions. Most of the staff working at ARs are educated in classes segregated according to discipline. As a result, some staff members have difficulty working collaboratively. Many qualitative studies have been published that document various degrees of team dysfunction in some ARs. Additionally, previous studies in a variety of healthcare environments have shown a correlation between improved interdisciplinary collaboration and better patient outcomes. However, very little quantitative data has been published that documents the level of interdisciplinary collaboration at ARs and the impact on patient functional outcomes.

The authors of this study have concluded phase one of a case-control intervention study at two acute inpatient rehabilitation units to explore these variables. During phase one, the intervention group received a novel Teamwork Intervention designed to improve interdisciplinary teamwork, and the control group received usual standard care. Baseline data was collected using the Healthcare Team Vitality Survey (HTVI) to measure team vitality, and the Functional Independence Measure (FIM) to measure patient functional outcomes. After the Teamwork Intervention was completely implemented, the first follow-up quantitative data was collected using the HTVI and FIM measures.

For phase two of this research project, another set of HTVI and FIM data will be collected two years after the Teamwork Intervention began to evaluate the durability of the changes. The authors will utilize statistical analysis to explore the relationships between the Teamwork Intervention, rehabilitation team vitality and patient functional outcomes. Data will be analyzed using non-parametric statistical instrumentation, such as the Mann-Whitney U test or the Wilcoxon signed-rank. The analysis will explore if there is a significant difference between baseline and follow-up HTVI and FIM® data. The model will be adjusted for the number of days per patient. This research project addresses four elements of the Association of Rehabilitation Nursing Research Agenda, specifically items 1.2.c, 3.2, 6.1, and 7.2.