

Development of Education Plan for Proposed ICU Step-down Units

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BACKGROUND

As the demand for intensive care unit beds increase, nurses in intermediate care units must be prepared to care for patients with higher acuity and greater complexity. Without adequate education and preparation, gaps in practices may compromise patient safety and outcomes. To address this, a workgroup was established to develop ICU Step-down units and to design a comprehensive education plan for nurses transitioning to these proposed units.

PURPOSE

To develop an evidence-based education plan to support nurses transitioning to proposed ICU Step-Down units

METHODS

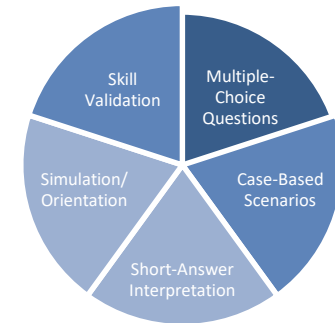
A comprehensive literature review was conducted by a workgroup comprised of registered nurses in intermediate care units and in the education department to identify core domains required for ICU Step-Down units. This workgroup evaluated existing competencies as well as identified gaps and barriers in current practices. The education plan was also developed in alignment with best practices and standards by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, the National Council State Board of Nursing, and the Joint Commission.

DOMAINS

	Cardiac Monitoring & Dysrhythmia Interpretation
	Respiratory Management
	Hemodynamic Stability & Shock Recognition
	Neurological Assessment
	Sepsis & Infection Control
	IV Drips & Titration
	Electrolyte Imbalance Management
	Emergency Response
	Pain Management & Protocols
	Interdisciplinary Communication
	Post-Transplant Monitoring

RESULTS

The workgroup collaborated to develop 11 evidence-based domains essential for ICU Step-Down units. A multi-modal format was also generated to evaluate clinical judgment and hands-on skills. This includes:



CONCLUSION

Implementation of this education plan is expected to promote efficient practices, enhance clinical confidence, and ensure standardized preparation across ICU Step-Down units. Ultimately, this initiative aims to optimize patient flow and deliver the highest level of care by providing adequate training and guidance to our nurses.

REFERENCES

See Poster Authors for References.

