

Title: The Significance of Parental Social Determinants in Successful Care Transitions from a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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Patient education and literacy is critical to the management of chronic disease. Demographic characteristics contribute to the level of risk of hospital readmission within the first 30-days of discharge. Discharge planning, teaching, information sharing, and identification of barriers to learning are critical for successful patient discharge. The successful transition from hospital to home for neonates is reliant on parental compliance to the plan of care when discharging complex neonatal patients therefore, the identification of existing social determinants is important. Connections between patient educational level, literacy and understanding, are well documented in the management of chronic disease. In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patient population, the importance of parental understanding, care participation, and plan of care compliance are key components to preventing readmission. Although health literacy, inadequate communication skills, reading abilities, and learning capabilities are recognized patient self-care deficits in adult patients, this presentation discusses parental characteristics and population-specific elements significant in the likelihood of re-hospitalization in the neonatal population. Successful management of a neonate requiring on-going follow-up and medical management is contingent on mitigating the social determinants present within the family and not solely related to the medical condition of the patient. This presentation focuses on cultural and population-specific elements that increase likelihood of re-hospitalization of neonates discharged from the NICU and the need for a comprehensive assessment of parental determinants and inclusion of parental responsibilities into the plan of care achieved through thorough parental readiness assessment resulting in a clear education and instruction plan prior to discharge.

Biography

Kathleen Weatherspoon holds a Masters in Nursing Science and completed her Doctorate in Healthcare Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is the senior director of the Maternal, Fetal, and Neonatal Institute at johns Hopkins . He has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute. (Up to 100 words)

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