TITLE:

PROMOTING SAFETY IN HEALTHCARE, THE BEST STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Patient and Staff Safety in Healthcare is currently facing significant decline in various healthcare institutions across the globe. Research has shown that each year, nearly 444,000 people die due to preventable hospital errors and 1 out of every 25 patients develop infection. Fortunately, care providers, support staff, and care users acting in unison can improve safety outcomes through team initiatives. So, it is up to everyone to intensify efforts in making sure that safety in healthcare is the number one priority. This paper aims to outline what safety issues entails, why safety in healthcare is important and suggest ways of promoting safety in healthcare sector. In this context, safety is defined as avoidance of unintended or unexpected harm to people during the provision of healthcare. This is so for the patients to gain quality and easy recovery. This involves preventing preventable errors, limiting harm and reducing the likelihood of mistakes through care planning that foster communication, lowers infection rates and minimally reduces injuries. Promoting patient safety goes hand-in-hand with person-centred care. A whole new science has grown up around patient safety to try to explain the many circumstances, situations and occurrences that can put patients at risk. It may not be a single issue that causes the problem, but a combination of factors. There are many things that can be done to make healthcare workplace safer and healthier, such as, Establishing a safety and Health management system, Building a rapid response team, Making sure that employees know and understand safety policies, Developing safety compliance plan, Practicing patient-centred care, communicating safety information to patients and also, Incorporating safe hospital design.