Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice

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Improving Provider Documentation of Controlled Substance Monitoring:
Creation of New Documentation Tool for the Athena EMR

Date: November 8, 2019
Time: 10:00am to 12.00pm
Place: Nursing Administration Building, Room 117

Abstract
While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) directives issued in 2016 gave guidelines for safely prescribing opiates, primary source discussions about methods used for documenting opioid and controlled substance monitoring within an electronic medical record (EMR) are limited (Hussain, Nelson, Polston & Zheng, 2019). This leaves individual providers to determine the appropriate way to document. Inconsistent documentation may not protect providers or organizations from regulatory, civil or criminal liability. As stated by Raveesh, Nayak and Kumbar (2016), “The best way to handle medico-legal issues is by preventing them” (p. S15). Even with the advent and widespread use of EMRs, documentation is still often limited to basics: diagnosis, medication, dosage, procedures, referrals, and follow up (Schneider, 2014). The purpose of this project was to implement a practice improvement change which included creation of a standardized template and a central location for documentation of controlled substance monitoring. This allowed providers to document, see the dates and results for drug screens and pill counts, any concurrent schedule II or III medications, and prescription drug monitoring database checks. Data indicated an improvement in documentation frequency for UDS and prescription monitoring database (PDMP) checks at both 30 and 60 days; however, this increase was only statistically significant for drug screens at 30 days. The increase was not found to be statistically significant for either UDS or PDMP checks at 60 days.

Key words: cdc, opioid compliance, provider compliance, patient compliance, medicolegal, controlled substance monitoring, emr documentation barriers, emr opioid monitoring

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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