Evaluating Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Use in Burn Survivors

Date: July 6, 2022
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Place: South Campus Classroom Building Room 219B

Abstract

**Problem:** A burn injury affects both psychological and physical health, resulting in a greater than 50% major depressive disorder morbidity. The purpose of this quality improvement (QI) project is to evaluate the use of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) in adult burn survivors, with an aim to increase the use of the screening tool.

**Methods:** A mixed-methods pre/post-survey design with an educational component was utilized to assess nurse knowledge, confidence, willingness, and barriers to completion of the PHQ-9. Aggregate data were collected to determine PHQ-9 completion rates for patients admitted to and discharged from the unit during the two months prior and two months following the educational component.

**Results:** A Wilcoxon signed-rank test found statistically significant differences in median nursing pre/post survey results ranging from $z = .93$ to $z = 3.70$, $p < .05$. Question five was the only non-statically significant result with $z = 0.93$, $p = 0.93$. PHQ-9 completion rates before the educational component were 6% on admission, compared to 40% after the education component, a 33.3% increase. Completion rates were 0% at discharge initially, compared to 13% after the education, an 86.8% increase.

**Implications for Practice:** This QI project accomplished the aim of increasing the use of the PHQ-9 in burn survivors and simultaneously increased the nurses’ knowledge, confidence, and willingness in completing the tool, as well as identifying barriers to completion as reported by the nurses.

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