Vila Health: Overseeing the Legal Process

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**Introduction**

Care coordination is regarded as the deliberate organization of patients’ care activities, involving two or more parties. It is involved in the participation of different people through the sharing of information among participants addressing the concerns of a patient so that a patient can achieve safer and more effective care. According to Williams, et al., (2019), it requires a patient’s preferences to be well known in advance and communicated to the right people early enough. The information provided by a patient is meant to facilitate safe care and treatment. In order for the wishes or the preferences of a patient to hold and applied throughout his or her care and treatment, there must be informed consent. It, therefore, therefore, essential for a patient to disclose their preferences with the care coordinator immediately they are admitted to the health care setting. This paper, therefore, illustrates the concept of informed consent in care coordination, it provides a summary of the responsibilities and expectation of the nurse in collaborating with the entire clinical team members when dealing with ethical issues, it illustrates the importance of adherence to the applicable laws at the local, state and federal government levels which provide guidance to the practice of care coordination and nursing care management and it also synthesize the ethical, legal and professional responsibilities of care coordinators.

**Concept of informed consent in care coordination**

The concept of informed consent is described as the process whereby a patient learns and understands the purpose, potential risk, and benefits of medical or surgical intervention. According to Sheff, Park, Neagle, & Oreskovic (2017), informed consent requires a patient to be informed of his or her medical condition to understand and proposed treatment. A patient should, therefore, be required to give consent on the kind of treatment to be used by the doctors. For instance, in the case of Tatenda Sibanda, informed consent requires that Sibanda provide consent to doctors and nurses before being given a blood transfusion. Without his consent, the action is illegal and violates his right and privacy. Without efficient information regarding the medical condition, a person cannot make an informed decision regarding treatment. A care coordinator is, therefore, required to inform a patient of his or her condition and the medical treatment applicable. Such information can help a patient to make an informed decision regarding treatment. Therefore, informed consent in care coordination relates to the process conduct research regarding the medical condition of a patient and providing the right information to a patient so that a patient can be able to make the right decision. As stated by Sheff, Park, Neagle, & Oreskovic (2017), a person being cared can make his or her decision regarding the type of treatment being provided. The concept of informed consent in care coordination makes it mandatory for nurses and other healthcare professionals to provide necessary information to patients so that they can decide on what type of treatment they would want to be given.

**Summarize the responsibilities and expectations of the nurse in addressing ethical and legal issues arise in care coordination**

The provision of medical treatment and care to patients requires the input of nurses. Friedman, Howard, Shaw, Cohen, Shahidi, & Ferrante (2016) pointed out that nurses play a critical role in ensuring that patients’ care is effective to meet the expectation of patients. However, in care coordination and other medical-related issues, nurses play an important role in collaborating with the medical team with ethical and legal issues emerged. The nurse provides a detailed conversation with a patient during a patient's visit to the hospital. Normally, a nurse is required to ask a patient some questions related to a health condition which includes preference treatment method. Therefore, in case of any dispute, the preferences of a patient noted by a nurse would be used as the method of treatment preferred by a patient and all the medical team would be required to apply the method when providing treatment. For instance, in the case of Sibanda regarding whether to offer him blood transfusion or not, the nurse’s notes with Sibanda during his visit should be used as his words and therefore, the blood transfusion cannot be provided unless his family members provide direction (Hoskins, Grady, & Ulrich, 2018).

It is the role of a nurse to provide direction on what a patient wanted to be done so that the medical team would provide medication to the patient. Nurses are required to provide secretly informed consent given by patients to the panel of doctors when it is needed to address legal and ethical chances. The information provided by nurses would, therefore, be used to address the ethical or legal challenges regarding the provision of medical treatment. Nurses, therefore, help in addressing the challenges regarding ethical and legal by revealing the discussion regarding how a patient should be treated. According to Hoskins, Grady, & Ulrich (2018), nurses must seek information from patients which could be needed during treatment. The information acquired by nurses is used when need arise to solve a problem either legal or ethical to provide proper medication to patients. Nurses play a critical role in coordination or collaboration between different parties for the sake of proper and effective provision of medical treatment to patients. The nurse provides needed information obtained from a patient to help a committee addressing a legal challenge to come up with a proper decision which does not violate the right of a patient and the hold the values of the hospital as well.

**Synthesize the legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities of the care coordinator**

The role and position of care coordinators in the delivery of healthcare is complex. Although nurses have the forefront role for coordination of patient care, the role of care coordinators is unique. As stated by Shahriari, Mohammadi, Abbaszadeh, & Bahrami (2013) care coordinators provide counseling, advice, research on relevant information regarding a patient and then provide professional advice to a patient regarding a patient’s condition. Professional responsibilities of care coordinators are to provide guidance and conduct research and advise a patient of his or her condition and the type of treatment which can be provided by doctors. A care coordinator is also required to help in addressing legal tussle regarding the medical provider to a patient by providing detailed communication which occurred between a patient and them. The information is essential in decision making and therefore, without information from the care coordinator it could be difficult for a medical team to make a legal decision (Shahriari, Mohammadi, Abbaszadeh, & Bahrami, 2013).

A care coordinator, therefore, requires unique skills to address legal and ethical issues related to patient care. A care coordinator provides guidance, counseling, communicate the treatment mechanism available and also inform the legal and ethical committee on informed consent provided by a patient (Friedman, Howard, Shaw, Cohen, Shahidi, & Ferrante, 2016). A care coordinator also promotes and provides teaching to a patient, family, and community on issues related to the health of the patient and the method which can be used to provide treatment so that a proper consent can be obtained before a medical provider is offered. Without the utilization of the knowledge and the advice of a care coordinator when providing treatment to a patient, the right of a patient might be violated. It is, therefore, important to point out that a care coordinator advice is needed to get the relevant information a patient informed a care coordinator so that appropriate action can be taken to avoid legal challenge in the future (Shahriari, Mohammadi, Abbaszadeh, & Bahrami, 2013). It is also done to make sure that the wishes, cultural and religious practices of a patient are respected to protect the dignity of a patient. A proper consultation among the stakeholders involved is, therefore, required to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

**Importance of adherence to applicable laws on the local, state, and federal levels that govern the practice of care coordination and nursing care management**

It is essential to adhere to the law whether it is local, state and federal law when providing medical treatment to patients. First, it is important to adhere to the applicable laws to avoid legal cases which a patient might take against the hospital and the government. The laws that guide the health care providers are enacted to provide a clear direction on how situations should be addressed by care coordinators and nurses. It is also meant to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients and therefore, it is important to adhere to those laws. Adherence to the applicable laws ensured that care coordination is efficiently done without violating the right of patients (Shahriari, Mohammadi, Abbaszadeh, & Bahrami, 2013). Nursing practice has a significant impact on the delivery of health care, patient safety, and patient outcome. The regulation of nursing and care coordination is done at the state level to ensure it is applicable. Adherence to the law ensures that there are uniformity and consistency in nursing practice and standard.

The laws are also designed to make sure that risk is limited and therefore, adherence to either state or federal law related to healthcare provision limits certain risk which a patient, nurse and care coordinator might face in the provision of health care services to patients (Nightingale, 2014). It makes sure that the delivery of medical services to patients and the management of patients' information is efficient. Without proper implementation of the law, the right of patients would be violated. For instance, a patient informed consent indicates that a patient does not accept a blood transfusion. Proceeding to give the patient blood would be a violation of the patient's right and illegal under the patient protection act. It is, therefore, clear that the laws are enacted to protect the right of patients and ensure that care coordination and nurses deliver efficient services to patients (Hoskins, Grady, & Ulrich, 2018). The adherence to the law also makes the management care to be effective and faster. It ensures that the hospital and the government avoid certain legal challenges which can be destroyed the hospital. Without effective laws and adherence to the applicable laws, it would be impossible for care coordinators and nurses to perform their duties (Friedman, Howard, Shaw, Cohen, Shahidi, & Ferrante, 2016).

**Conclusion**

Care coordinators and nurses play an important role in ensuring that legal and ethical issues which emerged during healthcare provision are addressed. The legal process includes adherence to the laws which are applicable during the medical provision. It is, therefore, established that care coordinators play a critical role in the collaboration of the legal and ethical issues when they emerged. The care coordinator provides an informed consent of a patient to the medical team, which are used to make an informed decision regarding the medical treatment of a patient. Therefore, for the efficient provision of healthcare service without facing legal challenges, it is important to adhere to the applicable laws when addressing issues related to patients.

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