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Inpatient Observation Safety Assistant Practices

Jennifer Knight

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Methods Section

Jennifer Knight

DNP Project

Southern Illinois University

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Design

The purpose of this root cause analysis is to gain an understand of the barriers that exist to the appropriate implementation of an existing patient sitter policy/algorithm. This descriptive study will involve developing and implementing a survey to determine the barriers that prevent charge nurses, primary nurses, and patient access nurses from following a nurse-driven sitter policy. The aim is to determine the obstacles preventing staff from following the sitter policy and hardwire best practices using the sitter policy consistently based on research findings and recommendations from stakeholders.

Setting and Participants

The setting for the project is an urban hospital, a 440 – bed trauma level three licensed facility. The environment is fast-paced, with an average daily census around 300. The rationale for choosing this facility is that there is a lack of consistency following the sitter policy. Two inpatient units are selected to participate in a survey questionnaire; a 30-bed Oncology unit and a 31-bed Trauma & Stoke unit.

Recruitment and Methods

In this study, charge nurses, primary nurses from both units, and the House Supervisors will be recruited to participate. A letter will be drafted and sent to all potential participants requesting them to participate in the study. Staff will have access to a QR code to participate in an online survey questionnaire with 11 Likert-scale and four open-ended questions In addition to the recruitment letter, a brief presentation about the purpose of the study and how to participate will be given during a morning huddle on both units. Participants will give an implied consent by

scanning the available QR code to begin participation. Data collection will occur from June-August 2021.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

The root cause analysis project will be submitted to the IRB for approval at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. All members of the project team are CITI certified.

