Purpose

- The purpose of this project was to evaluate the impact that a formal education program (COMFORT) had on improving the comfort of nurses with engaging patients and families with difficult topics.

Methods

- Setting: Moffitt Cancer Center, Magnolia and McKinley facilities
- COMFORT Curriculum Implementation at MCC
- Design: Single group pre/post test study
- Instrument: C-Cope Tool 19 (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)
- Quality Performance Project (Spring 2019-Summer 2019) Database Development Sample: 47 Registered Nurses
- Quality Performance Project Data Synthesis and Analysis with SPSS® statistical software

Background

- Formal communication training is effective in improving the ability of nurses to impact the quality of life of oncology patients, patient satisfaction and treatment adherence.
- Even within National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated cancer centers, only 64% of facilities support the development of competency in communication practices.
- Formal communication education positively impacts both the comfort of nurses with difficult topics, as well as the likelihood that these topics will be discussed at all.
- The COMFORT Curriculum, an oncology specific communication curriculum, meets the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care (NCP) criteria, and is applicable to real-world scenarios.

Results

- C-COPE Survey Questions with the Greatest Change After Curriculum Implementation
- The C-COPE utilizes a Likert scale where the lowest score indicates the greatest comfort with difficult topics. The graph demonstrates a clinical improvement in all cohorts.

Discussion

- Results demonstrate improvement in communication comfort following the educational intervention.
- Offering the educational intervention for a longer period of time is necessary to measure the impact on nurses, patients and families communication about difficult topics.

Limitations

- The C-COPE tools were not matched for identification between pre/post survey, limiting the ability to track the progress of individual participants across the curriculum.
- Small sample size limits interpretation of results.
- Participation was limited to Registered Nurses at one project site.

Clinical Implications

- The COMFORT curriculum has the potential to improve the comfort level of families, nurses, and patients with engaging in the discussion of difficult topics.

References

Available as a handout

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