The Use of Education to Improve Nurses’ Involvement in Rounds

PURPOSE
The purpose of the DNP project was to implement an educational program for nurses in the neonatal ICU, with the goal to improve the patient information communicated during bedside rounds (BSR).

BACKGROUND
Medical errors committed by health care team members are still occurring despite the tremendous national attention. Inadequate communication between members of the health care team continues to contribute to medical errors in hospitals. The lack of nursing education on what information to present in BSR contribute to inadequate communication and medical errors.

METHODOLOGY
Baseline data consisted of how many of the elements were presented in BSR prior to education. Audits were performed for 60 days to collect data throughout the intervention period.

The educational workshop included information on the expectations, behaviors, and elements of the goal sheet.

8 Key Patient Elements include:
- Patient's first name
- Diagnosis
- Respiratory status
- Medications
- IV access
- Nutrition
- Parent participation
- Plan recap

RESULTS
Prior to rounding education being provided, 42% of the key elements were presented by the nurse in BSR. After additional education with newborn nurses and badge cards being distributed, the number of key elements presented continued to increase with 98% of the elements presented at the conclusion of the project.

IMPLICATIONS
Communication within the members of the health care team needs to continue to improve. Educating nurses on what information to present during the BSR with the medical team has shown to improve communication, resulting in better patient care.