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Addressing Gaps in Respiratory Assessments: A DNP Project

Kristin Quakenbush

Eastern Kentucky University, kristin_quakenbus@mymail.eku.edu

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Eastern Kentucky University

College of Health Sciences

School of Nursing

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

DNP Project Final Report

Addressing Gaps in Respiratory Assessments: A DNP
Project

DNP Student: Kristin Quakenbush, MSN, RN, NEA-BC,
CCDS

Date: May 2, 2023



The DNP Project Final Report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU).

Student Acknowledgement

“I assert that the content of this DNP Project is my original work. Proper citation, credit, and permissions have been obtained and/or given to all external sources. I retain the right to ownership of my work. I further retain the right to use the work in future publications (i.e. articles, books...) all or any part of my work.”

EKU DNP Student: (Type Name)

Signature:

Date:

Kristin Quakenbush, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CCDS

4/14/2023

Review & Approval of DNP Project Final Report

The DNP Project Final Report has been reviewed and approved by the DNP Project Team, which includes the DNP Project Chair and the DNP Project Team Member(s). The DNP Project meets the satisfactory requirements for the DNP Project Final Report outlined in the EKU DNP Project Guidelines. The EKU DNP Project Guidelines are based on best practices outlined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and external evidence-based sources. The DNP Committee develops, maintains, and monitors these standards on behalf of the Department of School of Nursing at Eastern Kentucky University.

List of DNP Team Members for this Project:

Molly Bradshaw, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, WHNP-BC and Nancy Owens, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Addressing Gaps in Respiratory Assessments:

A DNP Project

Kristin Quakenbush

School of Nursing, Eastern Kentucky University

NSC 994 DNP Project

Molly Bradshaw, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, WHNP-BC

May 2, 2023

Abstract

Respiratory assessments by healthcare workers, particularly counting the respiratory rates, have been found to be inadequate and ineffective. As a result, patient care may be delayed, reimbursement may be inaccurate, and the nurse may risk legal consequences. The purpose of this project was to fully examine the current accuracy of respiratory rate counts and documentation on two identified units within an acute care hospital, offer evidence-based solutions in the accurate count and documentation of respiratory rates, and perform follow-up chart audits to evaluate if application of learning occurred. Baseline audits demonstrated that respiratory rate counts were not even skewed and, therefore, were not accurately being counted and recoded. The comprehensive post education and re-training audits showed respiratory rates were more evenly skewed and, therefore, more accurately counted and documented. *A Background Survey, Video Respiratory Assessment, Student Satisfaction and Self-Confidence in Learning (SSSCL), and Evaluation* via Survey Monkey was also administered.

Keywords: respiratory assessment, current practice, documentation