

Perceptions among Pediatric Staff Nurses on Their Role and Confidence in Performing Antimicrobial Stewardship Activities

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Background

Development of comprehensive, interdisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship teams is essential. Recently, nurses are being asked to become meaningfully engaged in stewardship yet little is known about their understanding and confidence in this undertaking.

Methods

To identify the association between nurse perception of role and confidence in performing 10 stewardship functions, we employed a self-developed Likert-scaled survey.

- An anonymous 28 question web-based survey with optional comments was deployed to 1098 nurses responsible for direct clinical care
- It was sent three times over 4 weeks to 11 clinical units

Demographics were stratified by:

- Clinical unit
- Years of experience
- Years of practice at the institution

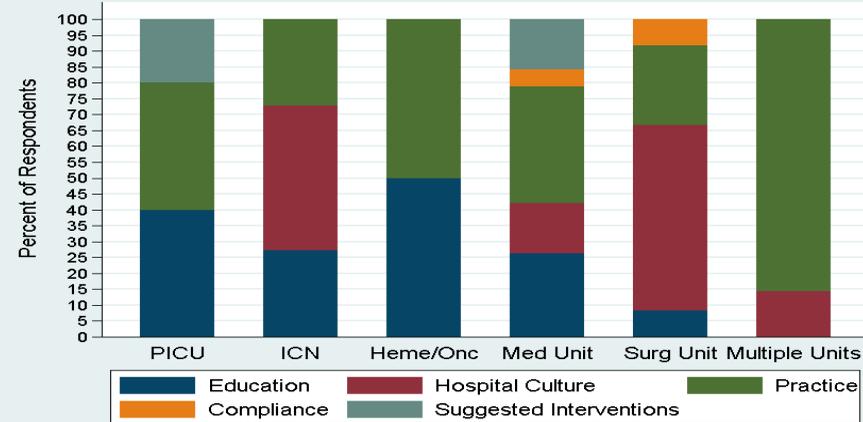
Optional free comments were analyzed and grouped into broad safety themes: education, hospital culture, practice, compliance, and suggested interventions.

Then, results were triangulated by demographics looking for trends in responses.

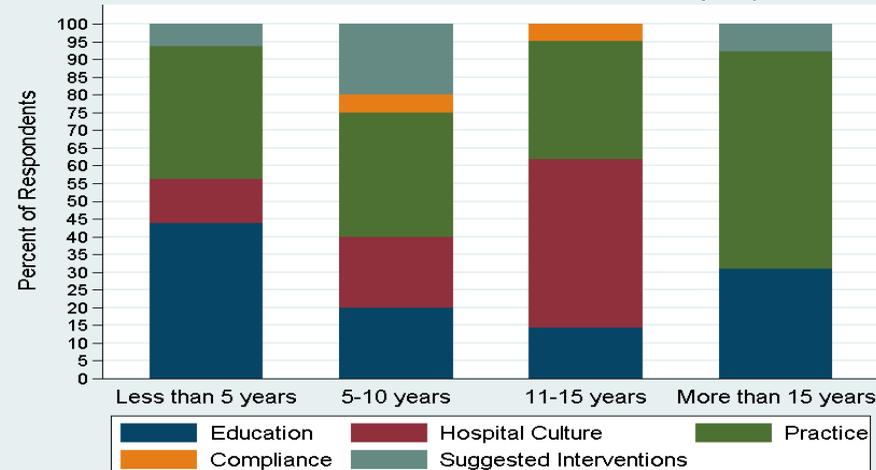
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Distribution of Barriers for Nurses to Steward by Unit



Distribution of Barriers for Nurses to Steward by Experience



Results

- 180 (16.4%) nurses responded
- Nurses were **most confident** in their role in:
 - ❖ Assessing an adverse drug reaction history (94%)
 - ❖ Obtaining cultures prior to antibiotics (93%)
 - ❖ Participating in parent/patient education (91%)
 - ❖ Notifying providers of dosing errors (81%)
- Nurses were **least confident** in:
 - ❖ Reviewing microbiology results to determine antibiotic appropriateness (38%)
- **Barriers for nurses to steward:**
 - ❖ Nursing not included in rounds
 - ❖ Cultural barriers related to the nurses' role as a steward not being well-defined
 - ❖ Nursing input not actively sought

Conclusion

Nurses perceive they have the requisite knowledge and skills to participate in antimicrobial stewardship functions as a member of an interdisciplinary team.

Findings confirm the need for strengthening system design that:

- Broadens the infrastructure for antimicrobial stewardship
- Develops interdisciplinary collaborative practices
- Establishes metrics to evaluate the nurses' contributions to improve clinical outcomes