

Assignment

Nursing Response to Opioid Epidemic

Student's Name

University

Course

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Date

Nursing Response to Opioid Epidemic

Counseling a Client Admitted to Taking Opioids Regularly

Opioid addiction hurts the well-being of patients, making it crucial for nurses to become more involved in recommending treatment procedures. As a public health nurse, in dealing with patients who have been consuming opioids regularly, I would leverage an empathetic and non-judgmental approach in examining the context. I would start by screening the patient to establish whether they are abusing opioids and whether the regular dependence on the drugs is in line with treatment. Establishing the incidence of substance abuse in the patient, I would endeavor to ensure I recommend treatment and medications that can alleviate the opioid effect (Horner et al., 2019). For instance, I would recommend methadone and buprenorphine to ease their transition from the drug. The second course of action would be the administration of a therapy and counseling intervention that will minimize the risk of relapse since the patient gets a support community they can leverage to remain committed to the change.

Community Resources to Refer to the Client

Opioid abuse affects patients' behavior and mental well-being, making it essential for nurse counselors to ensure they recommend comprehensive treatment procedures. The measures counselors can recommend to opioid patients include medication, therapy, and counseling (Horner et al., 2019). Administering the interventions requires involvement and support by the immediate community since this can ensure minimal incidences of relapse, and the patient remains committed to the treatment recommended. For instance, the nurses can use family, friends, and drug abuse groups to ensure they remain on track and observe the different recommendations made. Integrating community, such as family, abuse support groups, and friends, can minimize susceptibility to opioid abuse since exposure to persons, situations, and places that might lead to relapse are minimal.

Other Strategies to Provide Comprehensive Care for the Client

As a public health nurse, I would emphasize counseling as an effective intervention for opioid use, considering it can complement other approaches, such as medication. Qualified professionals must administer the counseling offered to opioid abuse patients to enhance effectiveness and safeguard the patient's interests. The counseling initiative can allow the patients to highlight the personal and social issues contributing to their drug abuse (Meadows et al., 2021). For instance, counseling can enable the patients to highlight their feelings of low self-worth, difficult situations at work and home, and even exposure to peer pressure.

Community Efforts to Address Opioid Epidemic in the United States

The government has developed several community initiatives to address the incidence of opioid abuse in society. The entities established to spearhead community involvement in opioid abuse include the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, covered by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, and the Rural Opioid Federal Interagency Working Group under the Department of Agriculture. The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program seeks to reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with substance abuse, such as opioid use disorder, in the communities (Meadows et al., 2021). The Rural Opioid Federal Interagency Working Group provides the modalities for collaboration across multiple institutions operating in rural communities.

Relevant Public Health Areas Addressed

The relevant public health areas addressed in response to the opioid epidemic are essential services and current laws. Essential services within public health demonstrate the crucial activities that the communities must undertake to minimize opioid abuse by establishing various community resources and entities (Blanco et al., 2020). The current laws in relation to public health should focus on controlling the opioid supply that health professionals can prescribe to avoid possible misuse. This approach will help improve the quality of life and well-being to create a better society.

Community Health Nurse Role in Counteracting Opioid Epidemic

Community health nurses within the healthcare system can play a vital role in managing the opioid epidemic since they streamline patient screening, access interventions, and spearhead advancements in pain management. The nurses can promote opioid epidemic management by ensuring they collaborate with stakeholders across multiple fields to advance knowledge about the problem and improve care coordination. For instance, community health nurses can promote evidence-based care by documenting their interventions and engaging peers in the field (Meadows et al., 2021). The nurses can also address care barriers by ensuring they embrace an interdisciplinary approach and focus on enhancing patient outcomes.

References

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