

Nursing Documentation Strategies to Keep You Out of the Courtroom

Medical Legal Concepts *Seminars*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF
NURSES TO PROTECT THEIR
NURSING LICENSE

Medical Legal Concepts Seminars

Legal Documentation Seminars for Nurses
The What, Why, and How



The Necessities

Why do nurses need seminars on the legal aspects of documentation?

Nursing training is vocational and includes skills, knowledge, and a system of thought that is based on the values, characteristics, and behaviors believed to be best in human beings.

Nurses carry out many roles and functions within a team of healthcare providers including providing patient care, decision making, protecting patients' rights, and providing information. With the evolution of technology, nurses are confronted with issues of malpractice in their practice as the interventions become more invasive.

Medical procedures include the application of medical and nursing science while following ac-

cepted rules and processes to effect the diagnosis and treatment of an individual's physical or psychological illnesses or deficiencies. They may also include the relief of symptoms and pain, using a full scope of medical interventions. In the process of, and following medical interventions, the expected results may not always be achieved, and a person who is receiving treatment may suffer harm as a result.

In this situation, the legality of the medical procedures or nursing interventions and the issues of the resultant responsibility of the person or individuals who caused the harm may be questioned, which may lead to an in-

vestigation of medical malpractice.

Malpractice can be defined as lack of knowledge or experience, or negligence, in the performance of duties that result in patient injury.

Medical malpractice occurs when a nurse or physician causes harm and/or loss. For example, by not providing adequate service and care in suitable conditions, by not matching the performance expected from a nurse under the same or similar conditions, or by departing from the requirements of accepted practice, leading to substandard care or a breach in the standard of care.

There has been an increase in the number of malpractice cases in part, due to an increased awareness of patients' and consumers' rights. Nurses have to bear heavy responsibilities.

Failure to fulfill these responsibilities may result in allegations of negligence that can lead to malpractice lawsuits. Allegations of negligence can arise against a nurse from almost any action or failure to act that results in patient injury (most often, an unintentional failure to adhere to a standard of clinical practice) and may lead to a malpractice lawsuit.

Criminal charges for nursing errors are becoming more prevalent than ever before. The differences between allegations in the civil system

“...that adverse events during the course of care contributes to the deaths of 180,000 patients every year...”

—November 2010 report released by the Office of the Inspector General

and the charges brought in the criminal systems must be understood.

The scope and content of topics presented by Medical Legal Concepts seminars are intended to raise awareness of malpractice as part of nursing practice. When nursing training does not create an awareness of malpractice issues, it lays a foundation for malpractice, whether it is intentional or unintentional.

The legal seminar presented addresses related laws and regula-

tions, malpractice, and ways of preventing malpractice and related problems by defining the relevant issues.

The only way for a nurse to protect against the possibility of facing allegations of substandard care for a nursing error is through good nursing practice and documenting the same.

Advantages of Legal Seminars by Medical Legal Concepts

Attending a legal seminar by MLC assures you to receive current, relevant and accurate information that will reduce your exposure to liability.

You will learn *at least* 10 ways to avoid mistakes in the workplace.

You will learn from real case studies that have been litigated involving nurses in clinical practice. You will become more aware of your practice lim-

its and the vulnerabilities of functioning outside them.

You will feel confident when to execute the chain of command.

You will improve the reflection of quality patient care, thereby reducing exposure of litigation proceedings to your facility.

You will receive perspectives on nursing leadership and regulation.

You will learn how to correctly document medical errors and how to safely report them to the appropriate individual.

You will learn of vulnerabilities posed by the use of electronic medical records and recording electronically.

You will learn of strategies that you can immediately apply to your nursing practice that will significantly reduce your exposure to litigation.

You will enjoy learning this most sensitive and sometimes threatening topic from the charismatic methods Rachel

How easy is it to book a seminar?



Booking a seminar is extremely easy. The online website through National Speakers Association (NSA) <http://www.nsaspeaker.org> provides the information needed to contact the speaker and request dates for booking. You can view her schedule and then you can speak directly with customer service at: 800-259-8058 to finalize your date.

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