

ENHANCING NURSING COMPETENCE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COORDINATION: CARE BUNDLES FOR ACUTE STROKE UNITS NESTED WITHIN BROADER NEUROLOGY

ABSTRACT

Background: The benefits of nurse-led acute stroke unit care are well-established, yet adapting care bundles for smaller units in general neurology settings remains underexplored. This review and case study address these gaps, highlighting strategies to enhance nursing competence and interdisciplinary support in resource-limited settings.

Purpose: To develop and implement nursing care bundles tailored for a small Icelandic stroke unit embedded within a neurological department.

Method: Stakeholder engagement, evidence synthesis, and analysis of the local context informed the design. A structured, interdisciplinary approach guided the development of four distinct care bundles addressing thrombolysis, ischemic stroke, elevated intracranial pressure risk, and intracerebral hemorrhage. Implementation strategies included staff training, standardized documentation, and integration into clinical workflows.

Results: The care bundles improved bedside practice consistency, adherence to evidence-based practices and protocols, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Despite challenges like staff turnover and the need for ongoing education, the bundles proved effective in enhancing care quality and ensuring systematic monitoring in a small-unit setting.

Conclusion: Tailored care bundles provide a replicable framework for improving nursing care in smaller stroke units. They bridge resource gaps, reinforce interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhance patient care quality through evidence-based, adaptable strategies.

Applicability: This presentation highlights an often-overlooked aspect of stroke care: the adaptability and implementation of nursing care bundles in smaller stroke units within broader neurology settings. We offer practical sustainable solutions for resource-limited environments by demonstrating a sustainable approach to reinforcing knowledge, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensuring consistent care delivery.