

Taxonomy of Error Root Cause Analysis of Practice – Responsibility (TERCAP)

Summary of Request:

This report is to provide an update to the Board about national and Texas initiatives to support the TERCAP Project.

Historical Perspective/Background Information

TERCAP at the National Level

To promote safe practice, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), working with its member boards, initiated the TERCAP (The Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis and Practice Responsibility) Project. The TERCAP Project meets the recommendation made in the Institute of Medicine's Report *Keeping Patient's Safe*. The original goal of this project, which continues in 2011, is to learn from the experience of nurses who have had episodes of practice breakdown (defined as the absence of "good practice") and discover characteristics of nurses at risk.

The TERCAP instrument is designed to collect the practice breakdown data from boards of Nursing (BONs) to identify the root cause of nursing practice breakdown from systems and individual perspectives.

While TERCAP was originally developed as a research study, during the spring of 2010, the TERCAP committee made a decision to change TERCAP's focus from that of a research project to one of an adverse events reporting database. This continues to allow for the determination of the root cause of practice breakdown, but eliminates concerns about case selection bias and the need for a high number of cases for statistical analysis. In addition, most research projects have a finite point in which data collection ends and analysis begins. Since TERCAP was envisioned to be an ongoing project, it seemed more appropriate to classify it as an adverse events reporting database. These types of databases are ongoing data collection systems and allow for the calculation of frequencies and analysis of trends. In addition, it provides increased flexibility. A reporting database does not require the same precision in case selection and fastidious attention to methodology as research projects require.*

Of importance to the project is the involvement of boards of nursing across the country. To date, there are 21 boards of nursing that are entering data into the national data base. This level of participation has occurred in the last few years as boards of nursing became aware of the data that is captured by the TERCAP instrument and how these data may assist boards in highlighting the contributing factors involved in nursing practice breakdown. Having an understanding of these contributing factors will help boards promote strategies that counter the

inherent risks in nursing practice breakdown thereby facilitating a more proactive approach to public protection through the prevention of errors.

The TERCAP Committee will be releasing a report of the analysis of the national data in summer, 2011. Board staff will forward this information to the Board when it is received.

TERCAP in Texas

The Board has been involved in the NCSBN TERCAP Project since 2004. Additionally, Texas has been entering cases into the national database since the TERCAP database was implemented in 2007. There have been several Board reports and articles in the Board's newsletter regarding the TERCAP Project. It appears that the project is of interest to constituents in that there have been several inquiries about permission to utilize the TERCAP instrument as a template for conducting nursing peer review. As a response to these inquiries, a meeting was held on March 9th with interested parties to gain their perspective about a board sponsored initiative to promote the TERCAP as a template for nursing peer review. The group's recommendations include:

- Developing a Texas TERCAP Staff Advisory Group
- Sending a call to hospital based employers to participate in the Texas TERCAP project whereas they would utilize the TERCAP instrument as a template for reviewing all nursing peer review cases. Other settings would be included once the project got underway
- Hosting a conference of participants to provide training about the instrument and the project
- Developing a web based data repository system of de-identified nursing errors that have gone through the nursing peer review process
- Developing an annual report format and template

Concurrently, the Texas Nurses Association is supporting SB 93 of the 82nd Texas Legislature which allows the Board to develop an error classification system that may be used by a Nursing Peer Review Committee to evaluate the conduct of a nurse.

Staff Recommendations

This report is for information only. Staff will keep the board apprised about national and state TERCAP initiatives.

*2011 NCSBN TERCAP Report