Is the image of medical nursing worth examining? Throughout the country, demand for monitored beds to accommodate the increasing population of acute care patients is a high priority. With the focus on the "high tech" areas, we were afraid that our medical units and our nurses were losing their vision. Feeling neglected, ignored and like second-class staff members, these nurses needed immediate action.

At a quarterly planning meeting, the concept of Medical Grand Rounds was presented. With the director of nursing, nursing managers, specialists, and educator we began our action plan. We wanted to provide our nurses with recognition for the outstanding care delivered to their patients.

The commitment to proceed and develop Nursing Grand Rounds came from our director. Some of the nursing managers were skeptical, however the educator and specialists proceeded to develop objectives and guidelines. Four objectives were developed:

- to provide a relevant learning experience for professional nurses,
- to provide an atmosphere where nurses can share their knowledge and experience,
- to recognize the outstanding nursing care provided by our nurses, and
- to strengthen professional relationships in an effort to improve the image of medical nursing.

Content for Nursing Grand Rounds was defined as:

- relevant and simple review of pathophysiology,
- a brief biographical history of the patient,
- a brief review of patient's history including reason for admission, relevant past medical history, relevant lab, x-ray, or test results, and relevant family history,
- nursing care plans/nursing diagnosis, highlighting priority problems, and how the nurses dealt with these problems,
- current or relevant research, and
- a summary of patient outcome.

We took into consideration that the nurses could not leave their units for an extended period of time; therefore, we allotted 30 minutes. Each unit selected a month to present, and the educator and clinical specialists served as resources.

Attendance has been consistently steady, averaging 50 nurses per session. Nurses from other areas in the hospital (i.e., Pediatrics, Nursing Education, Surgical Nursing, and Diabetic) have even begun to attend. Several of the nursing managers have commented that when Nursing Grand Rounds occur, they have more nurses who want to attend than they can actually accommodate. To assure adequate care coverage and to include other shift nurses, we videotape each session. The videotapes are kept on the nursing units for use by the nurses who were unable to attend the Nursing Grand Rounds and as a resource for staff development.

We also rotate the time of the Nursing Grand Rounds so that every other month the session is offered either in the early morning or in late afternoon. This rotation encourages nurses from all shifts to attend.

One of the reasons we believe Nursing Grand Rounds has been so successful is due to the support and commitment from Nursing Administration. The Director of Medical Nursing has attended along with other nursing and hospital administrators. Nursing Grand Rounds provided the opportunity to recognize our medical nurses and the excellent care they give their patients. We have also provided an opportunity to network with nurses from other specialties. Nursing Grand Rounds will not only continue, but also expand to other divisions.

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