**Knowledge of the Health Care Environment**

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The AONL competency of Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment involves transforming care delivery models and environments, recognizing the impact of internal and external factors on care, and integrating patient quality and safety measures seamlessly. The essence of the practical nursing practice lies in its ability to adapt and innovate, ensuring safe, evidence-based, accessible, and equitable patient care. Moreover, nursing professionals must align organizational strategies with healthcare economics, policies, and legislation while advocating for healthcare policies prioritizing safety, quality, and affordability. Rigorous adherence to regulatory standards and accreditation requirements and a proactive approach to addressing identified deficiencies is essential. Evidence-based practice forms the foundation, evaluating strengths and barriers and supporting staff in implementing research findings. Central to all efforts is a commitment to patient safety and quality, incorporating risk assessment methodologies and developing processes for swift resolution of performance gaps. Through these principles, nursing practice can continually evolve to meet the changing needs of patients and healthcare systems.

The AONL competency Knowledge of the healthcare environment is heavily used throughout the MSN-A program. Evidence-based practice is a cornerstone of nursing practice and a significant subsidiary of the knowledge of the healthcare environment competency. Going through the MSN-A curriculum through these years has shown me that evidence-based practice doesn't just help bedside nursing but also management. From research class to organizational behaviors and process improvement, evidence is used and considered the gold standard. Most assignments in policy and finance class had to be peer-reviewed and evidence-based. There are so many moments throughout each class that evidence-based practice is a part of, for example, creating a financial analysis and having to show evidence such as evidence-based work that backs up our analysis. Until this program, I thought evidence-based practice would only be used so much outside the bedside. Through experiencing the MSN-A program, I have a newfound understanding and appreciation of evidence-based practice and all the areas it can apply.

Reference

*Nurse Executive Competencies | AHA*. (n.d.-c). AONL. https://www.aonl.org/nurse-executive-competencies