EP9-2 PH 4 Medical- Patient Assignments

On the fourth floor medical/surgical unit it is procedure to staff according to the acuity of the patients on the floor. To determine the staff to patient ratio, an acuity report is calculated every shift.

Each nurse reports a brief list of key items, concerns and needs for caring for their patients. To help maintain consistent scoring a tool is available for utilization. The nurse tally’s a numerical acuity score from seven different criteria on this tool. The criteria includes

1. Vital signs and assessments
2. IV’s, medications and treatments
3. ADL’s, hygiene, nutrition and elimination
4. Mobility
5. Emotional support for patient and family/SO
6. Teaching
7. Other (this includes ventilated patients)

By adding the scores of all the patients and dividing by the number of nurses this helps the charge nurse evenly distribute patient care among the staff. This system was designed to increase efficient and safe care of patients and to provide an effective work load for each nurse.

The 4th floor nurses like this system as we feel we can spend more time with their patients. Nurses are more engaged and work as a team. This system allows nurses to be aware of the acuity on the whole floor and we are willing to work harder as a team. We are able to help pitch in and help each other out. We as nurses, also feel supported by this acuity system that we have justification for the amount of work that is needed to safely take care of patients in an efficient manner.