Technology Focused Faculty Interview

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For this interview, I approached one of my coworkers who has been working much longer than me. Jason has worked at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton for over four years. He is also one of the mentors who has oriented me on the neuro-telemetry floor. Everything I need help with or any questions that I have, I go to him. Jason is originally from Oakland and received his BSN from California State University, Sacramento. He now resides in Stockton where he has been working the neuro-telemetry floor in St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton ever since he graduated.

The technology resources that Jason mentioned that are currently available to him are the multiple computer programs that are available on our computers when logging in at the hospital. More specifically, the use of Lexi-Comp has been widely used by many new registered nurses who are hired at the hospital. Lexi-Comp helps with identifying drug-to-drug interactions and gives a brief description of their compatibility. This is commonly used for intravenous medications and intravenous maintenance fluids compatibilities.

The only barrier that Jason mentioned when implementing new technologies is educating and utilizing them in the department. There is a big difference between the older nurses and the newer nurses in the education of these new technologies. For example, there are new chair alarms for the department to use. It has been hard to utilize them because the directions to assemble the chair alarms have been difficult lately with the older nurses. The newer nurses seem to have figured out the new chair alarms, but the older nurses will take much longer.

Current opportunities to increase the utilization of educational technologies would be the classes that the education department. There are also in-service classes in which a representative comes to the unit and gives a brief description of the use of a new technology that is being introduced to the unit or department. For example, if there is a new bladder scanner or a new

vein finder on the unit, somebody from the company who is familiar with the use of the technology will come to the department and gather all the nurses to pay attention and learn how to use it.

The way that Jason and others have been incentivizing the faculty to try these new technologies is by utilizing them for their patients. Whenever Jason is the charge nurse for the unit, he utilizes technology to his advantage to save time and make the flow of the unit much smoother. For example, whenever a nurse needs IV access on a patient, Jason would go straight to the vein finder rather than using a tourniquet and physically look for a vein. Although it may seem that skills are diminished when he uses technology like this, it comes down to what makes the workflow faster and less time-consuming. From Jason's perspective, it has been the most effective in promoting the use of technology in the work environment as others see how quick and easy it is to use.

The lack of technology use in the work environment to Jason seems to be common with the older nurses on the unit. Jason's thoughts on the lack of technology used by older nurses are that many of them either do not know how to use it, they do not acknowledge the availability of it, or they do not even know that it exists. The recommendations that Jason provided at the end of the interview were if there is a class available to use a specific technology, he would sign up nurses to go to and if there are no classes available, he would recommend creating a class that focuses on the usage of a specific technology to make the workflow easier. The second recommendation is to have new nurses acknowledge the technology that is available to them. Sometimes Jason would orient new nurses to the unit, and he would notice that many of them did not know that there were computer programs on our desktop that answered a lot of their

questions. The last recommendation that Jason gave would be to have a re-educational class that focuses on navigating through the computer system for all nurses.