

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON A NOTIFICATION AND LEARNING SYSTEM FOR PATIENT SAFETY IN A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

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Background and importance: The incident notification system is a tool that complements others for promoting a patient safety culture and defining the risk profile of a health organization.

Aim and objectives: This study was carried out to find out how the COVID pandemic has influenced the number of notifications of incidents related to patient safety through the evolution of a notification and learning system for patient safety (SiNASP) since its implementation.

Material and methods: The classification of reported incidents is done with the matrix of the "Severity Assessment Code" (SAC); SAC=1-Extreme risk, SAC=2-High risk, SAC=3-Medium risk, SAC=4-Low risk and No-SAC = does not reach the patient. Descriptive study of the results obtained from the analysis of the notifications received from its implementation 2011-2020. SPSS® program ($p \leq 0.05$).

Results: 295 incidents related to the safety of patients at the psychiatric hospital or one of its resources were reported. %SAC=2 was 11.9%, %SAC=3 of 24.1%, %SAC=4 of 24.8% and without-SAC 39.3% of the incidents. 94.6% (n=199) occurred in hospitalization, with nursing being the professional group that made the most notifications (53.2%). 27.5% were situations with the capacity to cause an incident, 11.9% incidents that did not reach the patient and 60.7% (179) reached the patient; of the latter, 39.3% (116) did not cause damage, 21.0% (62) caused temporary damage and required intervention or prolonged hospitalization, and 0.3% (1) compromised the patient's life. Most frequently recorded incident is related to medication (17.8%), followed by infrastructure problems (13.4%) and altered/aggressive behavior (12.6%). By year, a statistically significant decrease ($p < 0.05$) is observed in the number of notifications in 2020 (13) and the increasing annual average of the previous years (34.3). Average number of reports disseminated/case presentation sessions was 7.1 until 2019 and only 2 in 2020.

Conclusion and relevance:

- Nursing is the group that reports the most, and the notification of incidents should be promoted in the rest of the health personnel.
- During the pandemic, a significant reduction in the reporting of incidents is observed, possibly due to the increased workload and attention to other priority activities of health professionals associated with COVID.
- The development of newsletters to disseminate the results of the SiNASP among health care providers and the holding of training sessions for new staff have also been negatively affected by the pandemic, having proven to be a useful tool to promote a culture of safety among professionals sanitary.