

Influenza

The role of a telenursing/telehealth nursing professional is to get more information to “take care of more patients in less time.” (Grady, 2004). With that said reports show that clients in “rural areas” have a harder time getting “health care and monitoring due to the shortage of nursing and other health care providers.” (Lillibridge & Hanna, 2010). The benefit of being a telehealth professional is that these people have the same opportunities to receive adequate health care in areas that are problematic. Use of telehealth technology has the potential to effectively assist case management and home health agencies manage their ... client caseloads, increase responsiveness to their clients’ changing medical conditions, and address the ongoing nursing shortage. (Lillibridge & Hanna, 2010).

The outbreak amongst young children in these areas without the assistance of telehealth professionals could result in an increased mortality rate due to a lack of knowledge about the influenza virus and the signs and symptoms associated with it and what to look for in severe cases and what to do in a severe situation. Young children are at an increased risk of developing severe cases of influenza because most children fail to report the typical symptoms. The current activity in this area is of a minimal sporadic report. The projected outcomes are that “it is likely that the 2009 H1N1 viruses will continue to spread along with seasonal viruses in the U.S. during the 2010-2011 flu season.” (CDC, 2010). A plan for this area would be to send home all pertinent information about influenza with every registered school aged child to inform the parents of the risk and for children who are home schooled post information at local areas where the parents of these children shop regularly so no child will be left out. Nurses health risks in this

situation are minimal and can provide adequate care to the client. In a person to person basis the risks to the nurse are “monitoring issues affecting nurses on the job, such as adequate protective equipment, available vaccines, surge capacity and ethical concerns, and reporting and sharing this with our national organization and government partners. ANA needs to hear from nurses on what will make their jobs easier and how patients can be better served during the pandemic.” (Lillibridge & Hanna, 2010).

References

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