

What Is Trending ? How Do We Recognize It?

The Joint Nursing Advisory (NAC) Process relies on the registered nurses' responsibility to coordinate care using nursing knowledge, skills and judgement to troubleshoot issues which impact patient safety or safe nursing practice. It is through this assessment of the situation that a registered nurse will identify if an issue can be resolved through low level resolution actions, if the issue is a one-time occurrence, or if the issue is on-going or trending issue.

"Trending" is defined as instances resolved through low level resolution yet reoccur at a predictable or high rate of frequency; such instances should be recorded on a WSR and marked as trending. Unique or one-time occurrences resolved using low resolution (Step 1 or Step 2 of the process) would not be considered trending issues and do not require a WSR to be completed.

Trending Themes

The field of healthcare can be overwhelming, chaotic and unpredictable at times which can make it difficult to determine what instances could be considered "trending". The following is a list of concepts in which could be considered as a "trending" issue. Please keep in mind this is not an exhaustive list; registered nurses should use their professional judgement to determine if an instance should be deemed as "trending".

1 Maintenance of Baseline Staffing

- This theme would reflect situations where the patient compliment is normal; however, the unit/facility/agency is working short staffed or below baseline staffing.
- Working short staffed or below baseline could be a result of failure to replace for leaves of absence, vacation leaves, or short-calls (sick calls) to list a few examples.

2 Workload or Overcapacity

- This theme reflects situations where a unit/facility/agency has regular baseline staffing available but has more patients, or patients with higher acuity levels, then the nurses on shift can manage.
- A few examples would include, but not limited to, caring for patients in the waiting room or hallway, or inappropriate staff-mixes based on patient acuity, complexity and needs.

3 No Registered Nurse

- This theme captures situations where a unit/facility/agency does not have a registered nurse assigned, as part of the regular nursing compliment, to coordinate care, complete patient assessment and the assignment of care, and/or provide direct patient care.

If you have questions or concerns regarding potential trending issues or how to identify trending issues, contact SUN Provincial at 1-866-667-3294 or 306-665-2100.