



Effectiveness of using clinical pathways in clinical setting

jamilah saad alqahtani

Nurse Lecturer, MSN in Medical & Surgical Nursing OR specialist, RN, BSN, in AFHSR

Email: control2010saad@gmail.com

Abstract:

The clinical pathways are the treatment protocol that seeks to provide integrated care with the many benefits and results required for patient satisfaction, quality and cost, clinical tracks focus on the principles and guidelines needed to achieve high quality care.

The aim of this study was to demonstrate the effectiveness of clinical pathways in clinical setting, its benefits and disadvantages, as well as the goal of conducting clinical pathways. The descriptive approach was used to collect data and after collecting and understanding data, the results were obtained, the most important of which is that the use of clinical pathways is highly effective in the field of care and has several advantages that encourage work, they provide high quality of care, also recommended the study of the need to do more research that examines the reality of the application of clinical paths in different countries.

Keywords: *Clinical pathways, clinical setting, Care quality.*



1- Introduction:

Health enables a person to live a normal life and to enjoy life; a person must maintain his health by keeping away from all the effects that cause harm to his health, such as heat and cold. Health is a condition in which a person is free of diseases and problems. Which include physical, mental, psychological and social health, a person cannot feel safe and comfortable without maintaining health, which includes his safety from diseases, his recovery from diseases after their occurrence and their final disposal.

It is also possible to maintain the health of various forms by maintaining a balanced diet and health and commitment to the pyramid of food, exercise, or through the use of different treatment methods such as medicine and surgical operations, and there is another method known as clinical pathways.

The clinical pathway is using in the health administration, where it has many alternative names according to the different countries, it is one of the means used to care for a specific group of patients in a short period, it is based on instructions where a specialized care team facilitates and coordinates communication with other care teams The overall goal of the clinical course is to reduce the risk to the patient, to improve the quality of health care and to increase patient satisfaction of the level of health care (DE BLESER L et al,2006).

Clinical pathways are always seeking a low cost in health care, reduce the number of deaths from various diseases, and to treat or reduce the severity of the disease ,it was also noted that the clinical pathways are considered the key to improving the quality of health care (CARLOS.A and JOHN.N, 2000).

Due to the importance of the main pathways in the field of health care, this research was conducted to study the effectiveness of clinical pathways in clinical setting.



2- Study problem:

Today, we are in the era of technology and rapid progress in all areas, especially in the medical field, which has encouraged and supported all clinical decisions, but there are many problems and challenges facing the field of clinical pathways, the most important lack of awareness in the availability of medical guidance by doctors, To a lack of awareness of the principles by the doctor and not to give clear recommendations on certain diseases (Helen.H, 2016).

The problem of this research is also because many of the guidance given to the patients and their belief that it is not important to them, and is ignored and lack of attention to guidance, and the high cost borne by the patient in the presence of the hospital.

3- Study aims and objectives:

The objective of the study must be determined with the accuracy required and the many efforts that precede the preparation of the good plan in accordance with the time period specified for it and the possibilities available to it, this research identified several objectives, the most important of which are:

- 1- Identify the goals of clinical pathways and its effectiveness.
- 2- Identify the advantages of clinical pathways.
- 3- Identify the barriers to use of clinical pathways.



4- Study Questions:

To achieve the objective of this study, the following main question must be answered

What is the effectiveness of using clinical pathways in clinical setting?

Based on the main question, the following two questions were raised:

- What are the most important advantages of clinical pathways?
- What are the barriers to using clinical pathways?

5- Important of study:

The ultimate goal of the World Health Organization is to improve the process of treatment and the use of guaranteed treatment methods. The clinical pathway seeks to achieve this goal by achieving health care at a certain time by using appropriate resources with advice and guidance from the patient, at a low cost.

The importance of the clinical pathway is focused on providing guidance from the physician and improving communication with other teamwork, which encourages teamwork and co-operation in care, continuing improvement of clinical outcomes to optimize the patient. It also reduces patient documentation by recording differences only among patients (Knowledge Management for Medical Care, 2005).

This research can also be used in the clinical track to spread care and reduce risk, Shortening hospital stays is expected to help reduce costs, encouraging risk-taking to avoid future diseases.



6- Study Approach:

In this study, the descriptive approach was based on the collection of evidence, information and data on this phenomenon, and its analysis, through reference to previous studies and scientific research related to the subject in addition to research published in scientific journals and reliable.

7- Goals of clinical pathways

In view of the rapid developments in the medical world, hospitals have begun to provide clinical pathways for several purposes, including improving the quality of patient care through monitoring their health status and measuring the improvements they have achieved, and working to optimize the use of resources by reducing the length of stay in hospital and minimizing Of non-essential medical documents, in addition to ensuring continuity in patient care to assist in the clinical operation statement and implementation, which increases interdisciplinary cooperation, ensures patient care, and clinical pathways also provide a measure of the success rate of their effectiveness, which includes clinical review, measurement of health outcomes (Audimoolam.S, Nair.M, Gaikwad.R, and Qing.CH, 2005).

The clinical pathways aim at selecting the best course of practice in treatment, using clinical medical tests to determine the expected duration of recovery and treatment of the disease, reducing the time in treatment procedures by studying the relationships between different stages in the health care process, where the goals are identified and clarified by the staff to work with them, work on the collection and analysis of health care data to understand the patient's situation, reduce the effort and burden of clinical documentation, as well as improve patient satisfaction and mental state because he is very sure that he is given the best care (Cheah.J, 2000).



8- Effectiveness of clinical pathways

The effectiveness of the clinical pathway program is focused on its ability to provide patient data faster, more accurately, and more effectively for specialist physicians, the amount of research that clinical pathways are economically effective has been reduced by reducing hospital stay in (Panella et al, 2012). The results of the patients by measuring the results of the treatment that have been achieved, it ensures better clinical results and less damage, thus leads to increased satisfaction of patients for this service (Hassan.I, 2013).

The positive effect of clinical pathways is that it improves the communication and cooperation between doctors and nurses. There is a consensus among researchers that cooperation between multidisciplinary doctors leads to the strengthening of the relationship between them and work on the development of learning processes to understand the roles assigned to them and thus an integrated improvement in the field of health care (Mater and Ibrahim, 2014).

The effectiveness of the clinical tracks increases their ability to make optimal use of available resources, enhance the training of new employees, and reduce the time used to search paper files. This reduces the time spent in the execution of the work and the quality of these documents improves due to their preservation (Hassan.I, 2013).

There are also several barriers that are terminate through clinical pathways to first address the quality of health care services, second, providing safe and timely care. Thirdly, the gap between the theoretical aspect and the guidance of the practical side, which is routine clinical care, is an effective tool in speeding up the process. The fourth obstacle that is treated is the patient's treatment process, which guarantees him the best treatment because it is done through the participation of more than multidisciplinary patients (Aarnoutse.M, 2015).



9- Advantages of clinical pathways:

Attention to clinical pathways is beneficial to doctors, nurses and the community in many ways. Here we will show what the most important advantages of clinical pathways include: (Cheney.J, 2005)

9.1 Decrease the length of hospital stay

Reduce the length of stay (LOS) is the most advantages of clinical pathways also; this feature is more useful for babies to relieve the physical burden on the family and reduce the risk of infections and viruses.

9.2 Cost containment

The cost is the basis for all health care institutions and is the main factor influencing this decision. It is necessary to study the cost before starting the application.

9.3 Coordination care

The activities and work between doctors and nurses are determined and coordinated which they must undertake to achieve the specific goals to be reached, provide improved health care coordination and coordination.

9.4 Team Building

The great advantage that can be achieved through clinical pathways is team building because it is the improvement in team relationships that results in satisfactory results that have been set in goals

9.5 Measurable

The quality of care provided to patients is therefore measured by measuring the results obtained by measuring the quality obtained from care provided in the clinical pathways.



10- Disadvantages of clinical pathways:

Each topic has advantages and disadvantages and the disadvantages of clinical pathways include: (De luc, 2000)

10.1 Time consumption

The researchers noted that clinical pathways need a lot of time to develop and implement them and may put pressure on employees to take extra effort to succeed.

10.2 Limited problem solving

It is a model to take care of patients who have a particular problem, but it does not provide an opportunity to solve problems of staff as well as the lack of experience to make decisions from a number of employees about the problem may occur errors or omissions in the decision-making process, clinical pathways follow a blind system in decision-making and problem solving.

10.3 Lack of individual care

There is a lack of individual care in the clinical pathways that has been assigned to both the patient and the staff.

There is a consistent view in all countries that there are barriers to the use of clinical pathways that include: (Hindle.D and Yazbeck.A.M, 2005).

- 1- Many doctors prefer to work independently and have no desire to work together.
- 2- That morbidity does not support and does not like clinical corridors.
- 3- There are no financiers and insurance companies providing clinical tracks or encouraging them to work out
- 4- That many doctors believe that it is not cost-effective because it needs high effort and must be high cost commensurate with the effort.
- 5- Lack of doctors' knowledge of the importance of clinical pathways
- 6- Not enough clerical and administrative support for clinicians



Conclusion:

The quality of treatment is one of the most important challenges facing health care institutions. This is a conflict that results in obtaining high quality treatment but at a lower cost and greater efficiency. Therefore, clinical pathways have been created to solve this problem; its usefulness is a means of enhancing the diversity between professionals and organizations and reflects on the high effectiveness and great importance of the application of clinical pathways

The aim of this study was to determine the effectiveness of clinical pathways in clinical settings. The descriptive approach was used to collect data on this subject and to study the results that the clinical pathways are highly effective in the field of care as they have an effective role in quality care In a time and a low cost, and also recommended the study of the need to do more research that examines the reality of the application of clinical paths in different countries.

Recommendations:

This study recommended the followings:

- To conduct further research to study the reality of applying clinical pathways in countries.
- To pay further efforts to solve the disadvantages of clinical pathways
- Induction by physicians and nurses by providing clinical pathways in the work environment



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