

10 TIPS FOR WORKING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Situations where the need for health care is greater than the available resources may occur in any practice setting. In these situations, nurses must provide care to the best of their ability given the circumstances. If you find yourself working with limited resources, here are some strategies to make the situation safer:

Assess the situation and set priorities

- 1** Review clients and assess specific concerns and immediate needs.
- 2** Identify and prioritize activities that are necessary versus those that can be delayed.
- 3** Modify clients' plans of care and/or delivery of care as needed. Discuss how to meet clients' needs with your colleagues.
- 4** Decide if your supervisor/manager needs to be informed immediately about the situation. If so, clarify roles and responsibilities for situations within your practice setting requiring immediate attention

Communicate and collaborate

- 5** Review the situation with team members and discuss how and when to communicate during the shift or workday. Update team as needed.
- 6** Inform clients, as appropriate, about changes in their plans of care and provide clear information about the care or services they can expect. Ensure your clients are aware of what to do or who to contact if their situation changes.

- 7** Communicate any changes in client conditions as needed with other health care team members.
- 8** Work with your supervisor/manager to resolve the situation by proposing solutions that promote safe, competent and ethical care. Know where to find the relevant resources

Document

- 9** Document all the care that is provided to clients following the BCCNM Documentation practice standard and your organizational policies.
- 10** Document concerns about the situation and provide a copy to your supervisor/manager as per your organizational process.

QUESTIONS?

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