Clinical Leadership: A Call to Action
Presented by Cecelia Gatson Grindel, PhD, CMSRN, FAAN
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Summary: The call for nurse leaders at the point of service to take the lead in assuring the delivery of quality patient care and a healthy practice environment is evident throughout the healthcare community. Nurses at the bedside are expected to assume leadership roles to enhance patient care, guarantee patient safety and assure efficient work processes. This presentation addresses the dimensions of clinical nurse leadership, identifies required leadership knowledge, and explores the competencies and skills of the nurse leader at the bedside.

Nursing Implications:
• Clinical nurses who recognize their responsibility to lead assume leadership roles to improve the delivery of patient care services.
• Clinical nurses with emotional intelligence facilitate committees and interprofessional teams and effectively manage the emotional responses of participants as needed.
• Clinical leaders at the bedside who use evidence-based practices improve patient care, outcomes and satisfaction.
• Clinical leaders motivate nurse colleagues and interprofessional team members to act to improve ineffective work processes, decrease variations in practice and enhance the health of the practice environment.

Key Takeaways:
• A nurse’s leadership competency skills are grounded in clinical expertise, supported by emotional intelligence, and actualized by expert skills in communication, coordination and collaboration.
• Clinical leaders at the bedside participate in clinical decision-making to improve the delivery of patient care services and governance on the unit.
• Clinical leaders at the bedside take leadership roles in quality management.
• Clinical leaders at the bedside collaborate with interprofessional colleagues to assure efficient and effective patient care.

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