Communication Skills for Health Unit Coordinators

Title: Becoming a Master Communicator

Recommendation

As a health unit coordinator (HUC) some of the most important skills to master are the ability to communicate effectively, prioritize tasks and transcribe orders effectively and accurately. There are numerous situations that the HUC must navigate with clear communication so as to be culturally sensitive with patients and their families, to understand and articulate to others directives from medical personnel, and processing orders.

Part 1 Activity: Provides an overview of 'listening and feedback' skills (sender, message, receiver, encode/decode, feedback) and practice using this skills to address 2-3 simple scenarios, such as a patient with assertive behavior or does not speak English well, or staff with poor time management.

Part 2 Activity: Provides 2-3 scenarios that address prioritizing guidelines and where the learner identifies the best choices for communication/delegation of those priorities for a suitable resolution.

Part 3 Activity: Provides 2-3 scenarios that address situations in processing orders (e.g. nursing, nutrition, lab results, treatments, discharge orders) where the learner identifies strategies for communication with clarity and use of proper medical terminology.

Slide	On-screen Text	Narration	Images/Videos
1 Welcome	Becoming a Master Communicator Part 1: Overview of Communication Skills for HUC's "Communication seems like a simple process, however the act of communicating does not guarantee that effective communication has taken place, or that the message sent was the same as the message received." - pg. 68, LaFleur Brook's Health Unit Coordinating <start activity="" and="" audio<br="" button="" the="">welcome plays></start>	Welcome to the Becoming a Master Communicator activity. There are 3 parts to this activity that you will explore throughout the course.	
2 Hook	<pre><play button="" video=""> <after appears="" box="" input="" question="" text="" video="" with=""> Describe 2-3 qualities of good communication in this exchange <button answers="" possible="" reveal="" some="" to=""> • Courteous to both patient and family member • Shows and explains medication doses</button></after></play></pre>	Watch this short video. If you were to describe 2-3 qualities of good communication in this exchange what would they be?	Video 1: https://www.storyblocks.com/ video/stock/home-health-car e-nurse-going-over-prescript ions-dzav6jq

Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 1: Communication Skills for HUCs

3 Introduction	 Listens to patient and confirms understanding of what was communicated <play video=""></play> 	As a health unit coordinator excellent communication skills are a must. You must be able to communicate accurately and efficiently to health care professionals, patients, and visitors. Situations can get stressful, so you also need to communicate with courtesy and remain emotionally neutral.	https://www.storyblocks.com/ video/stock/assistant-discuss ing-at-phone-with-patient-a bout-diagnosis-while-nurse- man-working-in-background -healthcare-physician-doctor -nurse-helping-with-telehealt h-communication-remote-co nsultation-hcyhtcpkukkelzpxb
4 The 7 Guidelines of Communicating	Communicating and Managing Customers Select each area to learn more. 1. Listen carefully and attentively. Listen to what is being said, not only to how it is being said. Use both attentive and empathetic listening to fully <i>understand</i> what is being said and without interrupting. Imagine if this was happening to your family member Avoid being distracted by a lisp, by how fast the sender is	Review 7 Guidelines that can help mediate conversations with a customer that can make the difference between whether a problem is solved at the nursing unit level or needs to be handled by an intermediary person.	Liter carefully and attentively Age and processing data databases Age and processing databases

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	talking, or by what the sender is		
	wearing for instance. If the person's		
	voice is raised or angry in tone,		
	remember that this hostility is not	l	
	being directed at you personally.		
2.	Ask pertinent, objective questions,		
	and gather facts.		
	Speak in a low tone of voice and		
	demonstrate a caring attitude.		
	Gather as many facts as possible.		
	For example when dealing with a		
	complaint; whether or not the		
	complaint is justified is not important		
	at this time.		
3.	Acknowledge, apologize and	ļ	
	address appropriately to a		
	complaint or stressful situation.		
	Acknowledge an issue with		
	statements like: "I understand what		
	you're telling me" or "I understand		
	your concern about their care. This	I	
	, must be difficult for you." Apologize		
	for the problem: " I am sorry this is		
	happening." Do not react defensively	I	
	with a statement such as "I wasn't	l	
	here yesterday" or "That's not my		
	job." If the complaint needs the		

issue with a statement like: "I'll ask
the nurse to talk with you as soon as
possible." If the person appears even
the least bit anxious or angry, refer
him or her to the nurse immediately,
because time often causes a
situation to be exaggerated. Anger
may be acknowledged by saying, "I
can see you're angry" or something
similar before referring the person to
the nurse. Doing this demonstrates a
caring attitude.
4. Provide feedback to assess
understanding.
When assessing understanding ask
clarifying questions: "I see the pain is
a real concern. "Would it help if I go
check with the nurse?" Repeat their
words or phrases to show your
comprehension of their concern
5. Avoid answering the phone when
already communicating with
another. Delegate this task if at all
possible, but if you must ask the
person on the phone to hold.
6. Document conversations.
Document complaints or other

	 potentially important conversations and your responses after the conversation has ended, and relay the information to the patient's nurse as soon as possible. 7. Demonstrate empathy. Think about a loved one who is very close to you and imagine yourself in the family member's or friend's place facing the same situation involving your loved one 		
5 The 4 Components of Communication	The 4 Components of Communication Sender The sender is the person transmitting the message The sender chooses (encodes) mental images, feelings, and ideas into symbols to communicate them to the receiver. Message Message is the images, feelings, and ideas that are transmitted Receiver	There are 4 components of effective communication that are good to keep in mind as an HUC: sender, message, receiver and feedback. Each component can be expressed as verbal or non-verbal, such as spoken words, facial, or tone of voice. Review each component.	<image/>

	The Receiver is the person receiving the message and interprets (decodes) symbols to understand messages. Feedback Feedback is the response to the message. Feedback tells the sender how much of the message was understood; effective communication is impossible without it.		
5a Scenario Introduction	Communication Scenarios Review each scenario and determine What communication guidelines have been applied in the scenario or should have been applied in the scenario ? <explore button="" scenarios=""></explore>	. <no narration=""></no>	Communication Scenarios Review each scenario and determine What communication guidelines have been applied in the scenario? EXPLORE THE SCENARIOS Instruction overlay
5b Scenario 1	In this conversation an HUC is speaking in person to a polite but concerned son, Juan, about his mom, Mrs. Garcia who is in the need of urgent care. He is worried about his Mom who looks terrible and is in pain. The son does not speak or understand English well. <listen button="" conversation="" the="" to=""> <read button="" conversation="" the=""></read></listen>	Juan: "I'm worried about my Mom. You are not doing enough for her." HUD: "Hi, Juan. I'm Maria, a Health Unit Coordinator. I'm sorry to hear your mom is not doing well. I'm not the one normally assigned to your mom, Mrs. Garcia. Can you explain what is going on with her?	Communication Scenarios A function A f

Juan: " She seems in lots of pain."
HUD: "I hear your concern about
your Mom, Mrs. Garcia. Let me
look into this right away.
<on nurse="" phone="" to=""></on>
HUD: Hello Natalie, can you give
me an update on Mrs. Garcia?
When was the last time she
received her pain meds?
Nurse: Hmmmabout 30
minutes ago
HUD: Ok, Juan I just talked with
the nurse. She said that your
Mom received her pain
medication about 30 minutes
ago. It takes about 60 minutes
or up to 1 hour before it begins
working. If in about an hour your
Mom still seems in pain please
notify myself or the nurse and
we will see that she is

			comfortable. Does that sound OK to you? Juan: Yes, in one hour check with you. HUD: Yes, myself or the nurse. At around 10:30, one hour from now.	
5c Scenario 1 Knowledge Check	Match the communication example presented in Ask pertinent, objective questions, and gather facts Acknowledge, apologize and		<no narration=""></no>	<scamble answers=""></scamble>
	address appropriately Provide feedback to assess understanding	doing well. Does that sound OK to you?		

	Demonstrate empathy I hear your concern about your Mom.	
	<review 7="" button="" guidelines="" the=""></review>	
5d Scenario 1 Feedback	Here are the best matches to each communication guideline. In addition, the guideline listen carefully and attentively was also demonstrated.	
	Ask pertinent, objective questions, and gather facts Can you explain what is going on with her?	
	Acknowledge, apologize and address appropriately	
	I'm sorry to hear your mom is not doing well.	
	Provide feedback to assess understanding Does that sound OK to you?	
	Demonstrate empathy I hear your concern about your Mom.	

6a	In this scenario an HUC, Don, is talking on the	HUD: "Patricia, Don here… your	Communication Scenarios
Scenario 2	phone with a stressed family member,	mom's HUC. I can hear you are	Keeping in mind the 7 Guidelines for Communicating and Managing Customers what communication strategies shudu that been applied in this convestion?
	Patricia, who lives out of state about the	getting pretty stressed out	Self actualization
	treatment of her parent, Mr. Winslow	about this situation. Perhaps you	Uisten to the Scenario Love and balknping Safety and security Read the Scenario Previological
	Patricia doesn't think her parent is getting	should sit down, take a deep	
	enough therapy and she wants more. She is	breath."	
	raising her voice and has threatened to call		
	a lawyer if the hospital doesn't give some	Patricia: "Listen can you fix this	
	attention to the situation.	issue for my father or not?"	
	<listen button="" conversation="" the="" to=""></listen>	HUD: "Well, this is the first time	
	<read button="" conversation="" the=""></read>	I've heard of this problem. I'll	
		need to look into Mr Winslow's	
		records to see if his therapy has	
		been as prescribed. "	
		Patricia: "I don't care what your	
		records say. He needs more	
		care now. Do I need to reach out	
		to my lawyer?"	
		HUD: "Ummm no I wouldn't do	
		that"	
6b	Keeping in mind the 7 Guidelines for	<no narration=""></no>	
Scenario 2	Communicating and Managing Customers		
Knowledge Check	what communication strategies should		
	have been applied in this conversation?		
	Suspending judgement		

 Listening to what is being said not
how it is being said
 Imagining the non-verbal clues that
the sender might be conveying
 Going with the gut based on own's
values and beliefs

6c Scenario 2 Feedback	Suspending judgeme	
	This a good strategy. prevent misunderstan demonstration of emp understand. It's not ou	ndings and is a bathy with the intent to
	Not So Good	Better Example
	Example I can hear you are getting pretty stressed out about this situation.	"I am so sorry you have to worry about this during a time when your mom needs help".
	said This is a good strategy What is being said can the approach a comm to respond to how it is	n be overshadowed by nunicator uses. Try not
	angry. Not So Good Example	Better Example

Listen can you fix this issue for my father or not?" HUD: "Well, this is the first time I've heard of this problem	"I can hear your concern for her in your voice."
Go with your gut and y This is not the best stra In medicine our values usually. It is the patient	ategy. are not what matters
Not So Good	Better Example
Example "Ummm no I wouldn't do that"	"I can definitely connect you with the therapists who are treating your mom. I can also look at their notes to see how often she is

	Imagine non-verbal clues that the sender might be conveying This is not the best strategy. Your focus is on what is being said, particularly when conversing via a phone conversation.		
Conclusion	Congratulations! You have completed Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 1: The 4 Communication Components	<no narration=""></no>	

Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 2: Communication for Prioritization and Delegation Scenarios

Slide	On-screen Text	Narration	Images/Videos
1 Welcome	Becoming a Master Communicator Part 2: Communication for Prioritization and Delegation Scenarios	<none></none>	
2 Hook	<show video=""></show>	 You have a busy day ahead of you and you're starting to feel a bit stressed about getting everything done. What do you do? Since you know what needs to get done, prioritize tasks, put your head down and do it. Or Use your communication skills to effectively delegate priority tasks to others The ability to effectively multitask is a key skill for an HUC, as is the ability to identify the priority of a task over another and use effective communication and interpersonal skills to delegate those tasks. 	https://www.storyblocks.com/ video/stock/healthcare-physi cian-answering-phone-calls- from-patient-in-hospital-che cking-appointment-medical- receptionist-in-medicine-unif orm-doctor-nurse-assistant- helping-with-telehealth-com munication-hcgv43f1dkk9terd m

Scenario	Communication Scenarios	In the following scenarios, order the	Communication Scenarios
Introduction	Review each scenario and determine	priority of tasks and then consider the	Review each scenario and determine
	1. What is the priority of the tasks from high to low? Consider how they can be delegated.	best method to use to communicate or delegate the tasks.	What communication guidelines have been applied in the scenario or should have been applied in the scenario?
	2. What communication method is best used to communicate or delegate the tasks?		
Scenario 1	<explore button="" scenarios=""></explore>		
Knowledge Check	 You just started your shift and there are already 3 things that need to be dealt with straightaway. Drag each item into the best prioritization. A fellow colleague is stressing out because the HIMS is down and she can't complete her routine patient status reports A nurse rushes in the room asking for the stat laboratory results for a patient in a medical crisis The unit wireless device is ringing. 	<no narration=""></no>	

	<review a="" list="" of="" of<br="" priority="" the="" usual="">Health Unit Coordinator Tasks from the Resources tab in the upper right></review>		
HUD Priority Tasks	The Usual Priority of Health Unit Coordinator Tasks 1. Orders involving a patient in a medical crisis; these always take precedence over all other tasks 2. Notifying the patient's nurse and doctor of stat laboratory results 3. Ordering and/or transcribing stat orders 4. Answering a nursing unit wireless device or nursing unit telephone (preferably before the third ring) 5. Communicating a telephoned message to the nurse that the surgery department is ready to pick up a patient for surgery or bring back a patient from surgery or that a patient is out of surgery and is in recovery 6. Monitoring or transcribing preoperative and postoperative orders 7. Monitoring or transcribing new admission orders and daily routine	<no narration=""></no>	<create a="" aid<br="" job="" pdf="">resource></create>

	orders 8. Monitoring or transcribing discharge and transfer orders, so that clerical work can be processed by the time the patient is ready to leave or be transferred 9. Performing additional and routine tasks. <i>Gillingham, Elaine A.; Seibel, Monica Wadsworth. LaFleur Brooks' Health Unit Coordinating - E-Book (p. 110). Elsevier Health Sciences. Kindle Edition.</i>	
Scenario 1 Question 1	<correct answer=""></correct>	<no narration=""></no>
Feedback	 A nurse rushes in the room asking for the stat laboratory results for a patient in a medical crisis The unit wireless device is 	
	 a. A fellow HUC is stressing out because the HIMS is down and she can't complete her routine patient status reports 	
	Tasks 1 and 2 are both high-priority. Delegate and have/request the fellow	

	HUC who is stressing about the HIMS being down to jump in and take care of one of the tasks while you handle the other.		
Scenario 1 Question 2	 Which one communication skill would you employ for the most efficient resolution to the previous events? employ an assertive behavioral style employ effective listening skills employ intercultural communication skills 	<no narration=""></no>	
Scenario 1 Question 2 Feedback	 Employ an assertive behavioral style This is a good strategy. Assertive communication creates a 'you win/I win' conclusion or a workable compromise Employ effective listening skills This is not the best strategy for this situation. While using good listening to 	<no narration=""></no>	
	understand is important overall, this situation requires action to resolve imminent issues.		

	Employ intercultural skills This is not the best strategy for this situation. It is important to employ intercultural skills with a desire to understand. In this situation taking action to resolve two imminent situations is the most pressing need.		
Scenario 2 Knowledge Check	 You are alone on the unit when: A new admission arrives on your unit and you need to transcribe orders A patient needs orders transcribed as they are being transferred to the ICU right now. You get notification from the RN that his/her patient is ready to be brought back from surgery The fax machine goes off with a diagnostic testing report for a patient on your unit that the MD wants a phone call with results ASAP. Drag each item into the best prioritization. 	<no narration=""></no>	

	<review a="" list="" of="" of<="" priority="" th="" the="" usual=""><th></th></review>	
	Health Unit Coordinator Tasks>	
Scenario 2		<no narration=""></no>
Question 1	1. A patient needs orders	
Feedback	transcribed as they are being	
	transferred to the ICU right	
	now	
	This constitutes an emergency	
	situation and moves it to the	
	top of your list	
	2. The fax machine goes off with	
	a diagnostic testing report for	
	a patient on your unit that the	
	MD wants a phone call with	
	results ASAP	
	When the request is ASAP it is	
	the same as STAT.	
	3. You get notification from the	
	RN that his/her patient is	
	ready to be brought back from	
	surgery	
	Patients need careful	
	monitoring after surgeries and	
	need to go back to the unit	
	who will monitor them ASAP, in	
	case they have complications	
	that develop.	
	4. A new admission arrives on	
	your unit and you need to	
	transcribe orders	

	Transcribing new admission orders is of less importance and falls to the bottom of your list here. You will do this as soon you complete the other tasks above.		
Scenario 2 Question 2	 Which communication skill would you employ for the most efficient resolution to these events? employ an assertive behavioral style employ effective listening skills employ empathy 	<no narration=""></no>	
Scenario 2 Question 2 Feedback	Employ an assertive behavioral style This is a good strategy. Assertive communication creates a 'you win/I win' conclusion or a workable compromise Employ effective listening skills This is not the best strategy for this situation. While using good listening to understand is important overall, this situation requires action to resolve imminent issues.	<no narration=""></no>	

	Employ empathy This is not the best strategy for this situation. While a critical skill in calming down a patient or loved one, this situation requires action to resolve imminent issues.	
Conclusion	Congratulations! You have completed Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 2: Communication for Prioritization and Delegation Scenarios	

Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 3: Processing Orders Scenarios

Slide	On-screen Text	Narration	Images/Videos
1	Becoming a Master Communicator	<none></none>	
Welcome	Part 3: Processing Orders		

2	<show video=""></show>	As an HUC, processing orders	
Hook		from and to medical staff with	
		clarity and use of proper	
		medical terminology is a day to	
		day activity. Let's explore some	
		scenarios that identify strategies	
		for effective communication	https://www.storyblocks.com/
		and interpersonal behavior	video/stock/male-doctor-exp
		considerations of various orders	laining-a-medical-procedure
		related to medication, nutritional	<u>-to-a-female-patient-in-an-</u>
		care, laboratory or diagnostic.	exam-room-while-a-male-n
			urse-or-assistant-records-da
			ta-on-a-digital-tablet-rjrgr93
			<u>i4jswi98xy</u>
Scenario	Communication Scenarios	<no narration=""></no>	Communication Scenarios
Introduction	Review the scenario and identify the best task list to transcribe a set of orders.		Review each scenario and determine What communication guidelines have been
	task list to transcribe a set of orders.		applied in the scenario or should have been applied in the scenario?
	<explore button="" scenarios=""></explore>		EXPLORE THE SCENARIOS
Scenario 1	Due e cuin ti e u	You work in a Skilled Nursing	Create an image of a
Knowledge Check	Prescription:	Facility with a paper medical	prescription pad with the
		record. They do not have	handwritten orders.
	XRay R knee (A/P lateral)	diagnostic testing in house or a	
	Tylenol 800MG Q 8 hrs	pharmacy in house. A set of	Scramble the answers.
	STAT CT scan of skull	handwritten orders has come	
		across your desk for	
	Drag and drop the the tasks in the most	transcription.	
	proper order.		

	 Read all orders Order medication/s from the pharmacy: send MD order sheet for Tylenol Complete STAT orders: fill out a request form for a portable CT scan Order diagnostic tests: Call for CT scan and portable XRay of the R knee + form Complete medication orders by writing them on the Medication administration record Recheck each step for accuracy Sign off <review 10="" of="" steps="" the="" transcription=""></review> 	<show pad="" prescription=""> Using the ten steps of transcription, place these tasks in order to correctly transcribe them.</show>	
The 10 Steps of Transcription	 The 10 Steps of Transcription Read the complete set of doctor's orders. Order medications by sending or faxing the pharmacy copy of the doctors' order sheet to the pharmacy department. Complete all stat orders. Place telephone calls as necessary to complete the doctor's orders. Select the patient's identifying information (e.g., name, account 	<no narration=""></no>	<pdf aid="" go="" in<br="" job="" to="">resources></pdf>

Scenario 1	The correct order for transcription. How	<no narration=""></no>	
Feedback	 close were you with your answer? 1. Read all orders 2. Order medication/s from the pharmacy: send MD order sheet for 		
	 Tylenol 3. Complete STAT orders: fill out a request for m for a portable CT scan 4. Order diagnostic tests: Call for CT scan and portable XRay of the R knee + form 		
	 Complete medication orders by writing them on the Medication administration record Recheck each step for accuracy Sign off 		
Scenario 2 Knowledge Check	Dr Brown calls and wants his patient discharged to Home health this afternoon Dr Brown also ordered a repeat X-ray of the chest before the patient leaves this afternoon Dr Brown added Tylenol 600 mg Q8H PRN	Keeping in mind the ten steps of order transcription, the following situations arise on your unit, within 3 minutes of each other. Place them in order of priority.	<scamble answers=""></scamble>

	Another physician arrives at your station and requests a repeat BP reading on two of his patients Stat	
	You page the assigned CNA take the repeat BP readings	
Scenario 1 Feedback	Here is the most appropriate order. How did you do?	
	1. Dr Brown added Tylenol 600 mg Q8H PRN	
	Step: Order meds from the pharmacy	
	2. Another physician arrives at your station and requests a repeat BP reading on two of his patients Stat	
	Step: complete stat orders	
	3or4 . Dr Brown calls and wants his patient discharged to Home health this afternoon	
	Step: This step could be 3 or 4 in the order. Call all departments who will help in preparation of discharge	
	3or4 . You page the assigned CNA take the	

	 repeat BP readings Step: This step could be 3 or 4 in the order. Call all departments needed, because the stat order cannot be completed without the CNA input 5. Dr Brown also ordered a repeat X-ray of the chest before the patient leaves this afternoon Step: Order diagnostic tests, because it needs to happen today but is not written as stat 		
Conclusion	Congratulations! You have completed Becoming a Master Communicator, Part 3: Processing Orders Scenarios	<no narration=""></no>	