



NATIONAL BAROMEDICAL SERVICES, INC.

How Does A Quality Assurance Process Benefit Your Organization? What Are The Advantages?

Introduction

A Quality Assurance (QA) process is designed to systematically monitor and evaluate various aspects of a service to ensure that standards of quality meet specified requirements. In order to test the validity of this process, we undertook an analysis of key patient safety criteria prior to and following implementation of a focused QA screening tool.

Materials and Methods

A total of 30 charts were reviewed. Information was divided into specific indications/criteria. Initial evaluation involved medication reconciliation and accuracy of patient records. This resulted in the finding of a 79% overall compliance, with lower individual percentages for some specific criteria. Medication reconciliation of individual criteria yielded a compliance of 63% regarding provision of patient-specific lists upon discharge; 79% for reconciliation of medications on admission, which included allergies, doses, routes, frequency, and updating of new medications started or discontinued, and 83% provision of instructions upon discharge and transferring records to the next service provider. Accuracy of patient records yielded 35% for reassessment of care plans; 67% for proper wound documentation; 82% for patient education; 86% for medication administration documentation, and 100% compliance for authenticating orders and ensuring care provided matched orders.

Results

After QA implementation, a marked and uniform increase in compliance was noted. Reassessment of care plans increased to 83%, proper wound documentation and patient education to 100%, and medication administration documentation improved to 88%. Reassessment of medication list provision upon discharge increased to 100%, reconciliation of medications upon admission ranged between 77% - 92%, while providing discharge instructions and transferring records to next provider increased to 100%.

Conclusion

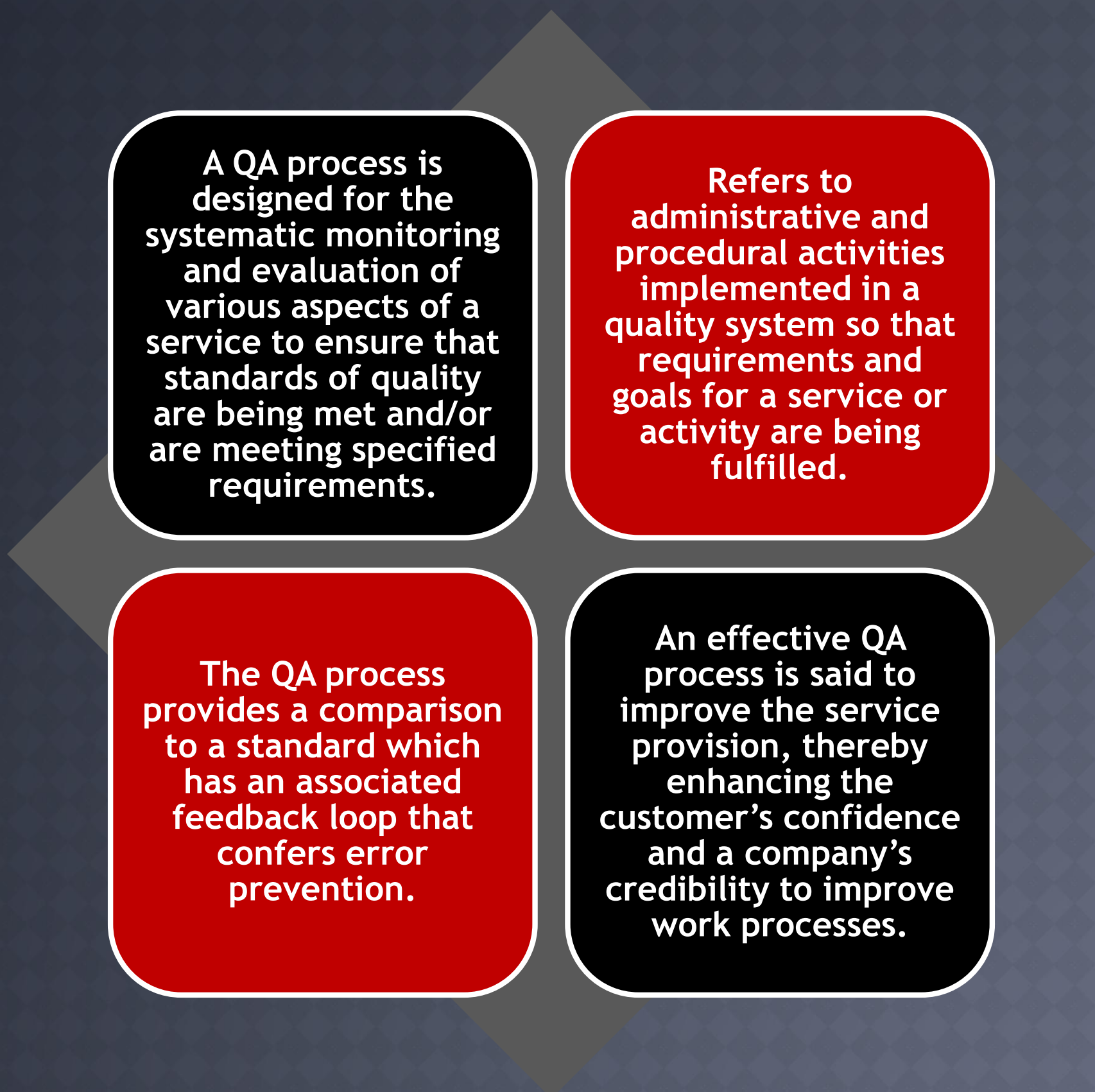
Implementation of a QA process provides tangible evidence of improved patient care and safety. It serves to ensure that patients receive higher quality care and helps to achieve and sustain compliance with regulations and standards necessary for maintenance of related licensure and accreditation.

QUALITY ASSURANCE: EVIDENCE OF EFFECT

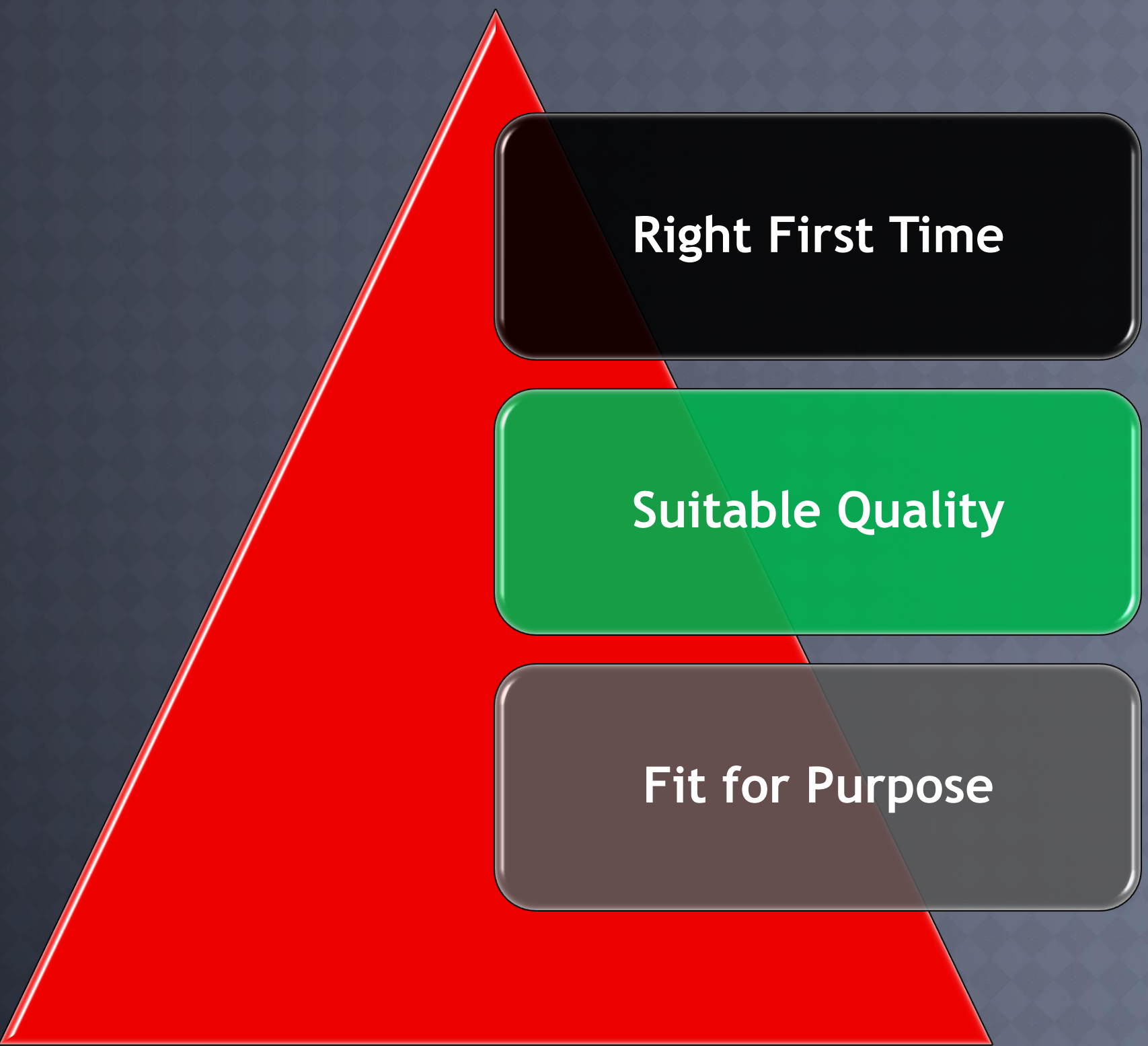
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Definitions



Principles



Major Elements

- Assessment of patient care parameters that have a substantial effect on treatment outcomes
- Use of objective criteria and/or developed by peer-professionals as the measure of quality care
- Elimination of impediments that restrict the benefits of care

Implementation



Results

