

Disruptive Physicians: Problems, Factors, and Impact

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There have been numerous cases dealing with disruptive physicians and concern for patient safety within the past seven years. Why is this? Have physicians become more rude, arrogant, and disruptive? Or is it because more and more this behavior is being recognized as not acceptable and staff is not tolerating this behavior anymore? In this paper I will define what a disruptive physician is, examine the nature, challenges, magnitude of the problem, contributing factors, impact, and what can be done about disruptive physicians.

Is disruptive physician behavior an issue in healthcare or is it simply “acceptable operating room behavior and potentially beneficial because it helps weed out those whom were really not suited for the best surgical care” (Sataloff, 2008). I know that as a future healthcare worker this statement concerns me. There are multiple reasons why it concerns me but the top reasons are what exactly is the behavior used to weed out these co-workers, if healthcare workers are able to do this when it is too far, and what is acceptable and professional behavior no matter the situation or environment.

Disruptive physician behavior consists of a practice pattern of personality traits that interferes with the physician’s effective clinical performance (Norman T. Reynolds, 2012). Disruptive behavior negatively impacts those that work with the physician and those in the same environment. This disruptive behavior includes inappropriate anger, inappropriate

resentment, inappropriate words, inappropriate actions, and inappropriate responses to the staff or patients' needs and requests. Disruptive behavior can be aggressive or passive aggressive. Aggressive behavior consists of yelling, foul language, threatening gestures, p...

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... examine the nature, challenges, magnitude of the problem, contributing factors, impact, and what can be done about disruptive physicians it is an issue that needs to be addressed for [patient](#) and staff safety.

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