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Nurse's as Innovators

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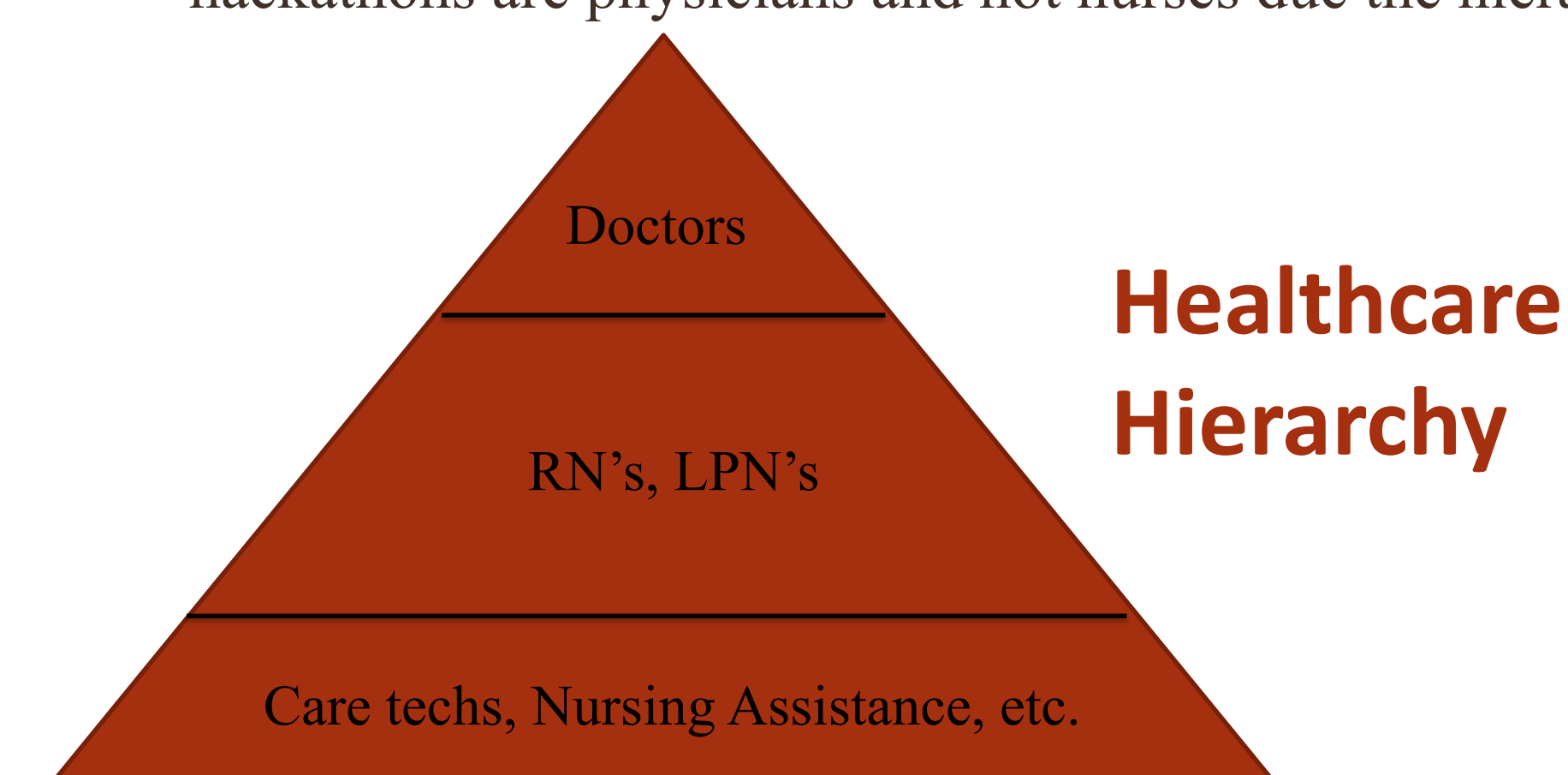


INTRODUCTION

“Hackathons are intense events in which bright minds are brought together in teams to tackle a business challenge over a very short period of time...They will spend the next three days of their lives there, with nothing but full-hearted dedication to cracking a problem...The idea is that the enormous competition and pressure will exponentially incubate more new concepts than normal circumstances” (Chia, 2017, p. 8). Often nurses are not represented in these healthcare hackathons, instead the majority include physicians, therapist of different types, and administrative workers. I will be understanding the advantages and disadvantages of the healthcare hierarchy system and see how that relates to participants at hackathons. I will share with you why nurses should be considered as innovators and be able to participate at healthcare hackathons.

Research

Love (2018) makes a reasonable point in her TedTalk that nurses should be innovators because even the “mother of nursing”, Florence Nightingale, was an innovator when she came up with the Environmental Theory back in the 1800s. Nurses are born innovators, they thrive on being productive problem solvers in the healthcare team. For nurses “to successfully innovate, you need to know your professional and specialty organizations’ scope and standards of professional and specialty organizations’ scope and standards of practice as a framework for innovative practice, the self-determination of your staff, state laws and regulations, and professional liability and risk management concerns, as well as your organization’s policies and procedures (Mensik, 2016, p. 88). One responsibility nurse’s have is fixing issues that come up without having to contact the provider or sometimes even recommending treatments or professional advice to the providers. Two contradicting points can be made about the current hierarchy system. The first point is by Hughes and Salas (2013), they believe having a hierarchy in the healthcare system can lead to a lack of creativity and have members of the team be afraid to speak up when they want to share their opinions and ideas. However, Vanstone and Grierson (2019) believe “Power is an important component the social culture of clinical learning environments; understanding the ways in which medical students experience and react to power can help educators, learners, and administrators optimize learning opportunities” (p. 1013). Overall, the hierarchy may disturb the creativity part of nursing, it instead improves the learning and understanding of how to care for patients by following policies and being told by higher-ups a plan of care. There are advantages and disadvantages to having a hierarchy in the healthcare system, which in return affects who attends and participates in hackathons. Therefore, most of the representation at hackathons are physicians and not nurses due the hierarchy seen.



RESULTS

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found innovators in nurses instead of doctors. This later was adapted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and formed the concept of MakerNurse, “a community of inventive nurses who are creating solutions to improve patient care every day... [They] provide the tools, platforms and trainings to help...make the next generation of health technology” (MakerNurse, 2019). Therefore, nurses are starting to make change and show off their innovative side and creativity that they bring to the healthcare team. These skills should be brought to healthcare hackathons to better the healthcare system. Nurses are the ones to spend the most time with patients and understands the ends and outs of the system, therefore should be represented at healthcare hackathons.

CONCLUSION

Nurses are already innovators every day when working at the bedside with patients and they can bring their knowledge and understanding of the current healthcare system to hackathons and show their innovative side. Many companies are beginning to do this, like Johnson & Johnson, American Nursing Association, and many other are starting to change the viewpoints of nurses, from caregivers to innovators. It is starting to become normalized that nurses can also be considered innovators. In conclusion, most of my findings were not surprising, however, it was reassuring to see all the different companies, organizations, and sources backing up the nursing profession and showing that nurses should be considered equally when talking about being innovators and active members of forming care plans. My views have changed slightly about the hierarchy of the healthcare system. Although I understand the reasoning behind it and I know there does need to be a chain of command, this can lead to subpar care because those who are on the bottom of the totem pole can be seen as incompetent or do not know enough to give input, this goes for plan of care, medications, and even innovations. These are the type of issues that need to be addressed in the healthcare system.

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FUTURE RESEARCH

My overall goal is to inform my audience about the lack of representation of nurses at healthcare hackathons. I would still like to gather information on the type of communication skills that would be most beneficial to encourage the exchange of information between doctors and nurses and transfer that into nurses being able to participate in hackathons. Because of the contradicting information about the advantages and disadvantages of the healthcare hierarchy, I would like to do more research to determine if this is something that is truly needed in the healthcare system. To do so I would expand my search words and look for communication types not relevant to the medical field and see how it would work between the healthcare team to improve the chain of command to sharing of ideas. Hopefully, this will transfer into healthcare hackathons and overall improve innovations to come.

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