

Implementing Unit Based Nursing Practice Committees – Pediatrics

PROBLEM: Challenging Current Practice

The need for Nursing staff to have a governance structure that facilitates their consistent and constructive review of existing nursing practice against patient outcomes and the best available evidence.

AIM: To create an environment which encourages nurses to participate in a process of asking questions that directly challenge existing practices, policies or guidelines. Each unit based practice committee aims to support nursing staff in the development of the skills needed to change existing practice as needed. By undertaking the following approach to review current practice, the staff nurses will consistently deliver evidence-based clinical practice, thus effectively enhancing the quality and safety of patient care.

INTERVENTION:

- Developed **Core Standards of Pediatric Patient Care** for the following units: Pediatric Intensive Care, Hematology / Oncology and Medical High Dependency. These core standards are developed through the review of the international literature;
- Produced Core Standards of Care Audit Tools to facilitate random auditing of compliance with the approved Core Standards of Care;
- Produced an **Issue Referral Form** which is freely located on each unit and affords any nurse to submit a question; raise a concern; suggest an innovation to their local Practice Committee for review;
- Educated the staff on the use of the referral form; and
- Produced an **Issue Referral Log** that tracks the submission and completion of all issues referred to the Committee for discussion.

RESULTS:

- Based on issues raised, committee members created and submitted for approval the following Pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines:
 - **Prevention and Management of Oral Mucositis in Pediatric Patients;**
 - **Intra-abdominal Pressure Monitoring;** and
 - **General Care of the Arterial Line.**
- Undertake quarterly random audits to assess level of compliance with Core Standards of Care – overall implementation of evidence based practice; and
- The data produced from the quarterly audits demonstrates to Nursing Leadership areas of strength and areas requiring focused improvement,

TEAM:

- **2 South 1 Nursing Staff**
Practice committee
- Advance Clinical Nurse Specialist – Hematology / Oncology
- Sub-specialty Nurse - Hematology / Oncology
- Infection Control Practitioner
- **PICU** Nursing staff Practice Committee
- DON – Nursing Education & Research

PROJECT SPONSOR:

HMC/SickKids Partnership Project

PROJECT COACH:

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CONCLUSIONS:

Successful implementation of 2 unit based nursing practice committees within Pediatrics at Hamad General Hospital continues to empower nurses to critically reflect upon existing practices, policies and guidelines and in turn support the active implementation of the best available evidence for Pediatric care.

NEXT STEPS:

Build upon these successes with the goal to implement Nursing Practice Committees in all Pediatric units by the end of 2014.