How Vital Are Vital Signs In Early Recognition & Response To Clinically Deteriorating Long Term Care Patients

Introduction

Enaya Specialized Care Center (ESCC) is located in the Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City structured into B- 330 and B-331. ESCC is a 24/7 long term care facility with 156 bed capacity under Rumailah Hospital. Enaya houses male and female residents who are being cared by very well trained Geriatric doctors and highly competent nurses.
And ensuring that the required skills which might reduce morbidity and mortality rate are already exits in such place

Background

At Enaya we identified that there is lack of standardized system for early recognition of deterioration in patients' condition, obtaining urgent assistance for them, clinical deterioration, delayed intervention is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. This prompted hospitals to implement some forms of a rapid response system for early intervention of clinical deterioration.

Aim/Goal

- To reduce the number of avoidable adverse outcomes and unexpected death by the end of 2016
- To reduce patients adverse out comes which has a great impact on patient , health by the end of 2016

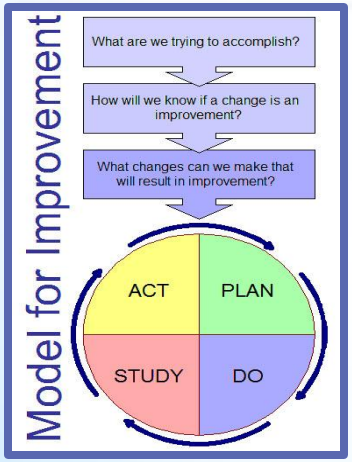
Action & intervention

* Forming the rapid response system and team for the long term patient
* Staff Training and Competencies
* Proactive Intervention – checking vital signs every 8 hourly and when ever requires to detect any clinical Deterioration
* Highlighting the importance of safety briefing practices for the units to help focusses on the deteriorating patients
* The use of early detection in compliance with the sepsis bundle implementation.
* Reiterate to staff the importance of accurate documentation
* Reaudditing observation chart implementation Implementing system for responding to clinically deteriorating patients.
* Implementing the nursing hourly round to check on the patients conditions
* Maintain the practices of hand over communication through the usage of ISBAR format in initiating the clinical response.
* Maintain the provision of end of life care

Planning & Implementing solutions

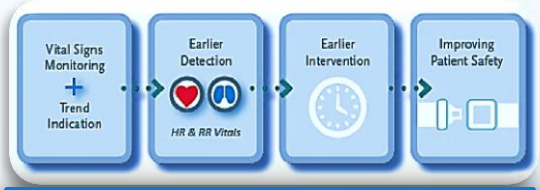
Observations recorded	Staff to comply with baseline general observations and to complete observations at regular intervals	• Staff to comply with current Standards of Practice for the regular general observations •
Patient deteriorates	Staff education targeting the recognition of the deteriorating patient	All nursing staff of wards in scope to attend an educational session on the recognition of the deteriorating patient • All staff to be provided with an education handbook on the recognition of the deteriorating patient
	Introduce the Early Warning System	• Staff to be orientated to the General Observation Chart
Decision to notify	Educate staff to effectively communicate a patients condition(ISBAR)	All nursing staff to effectively communicate a patients condition
	Introduce an escalation criteria and plan for the deteriorating patient	Escalation criteria based on general patient observations to be introduced to guide staff in the notification

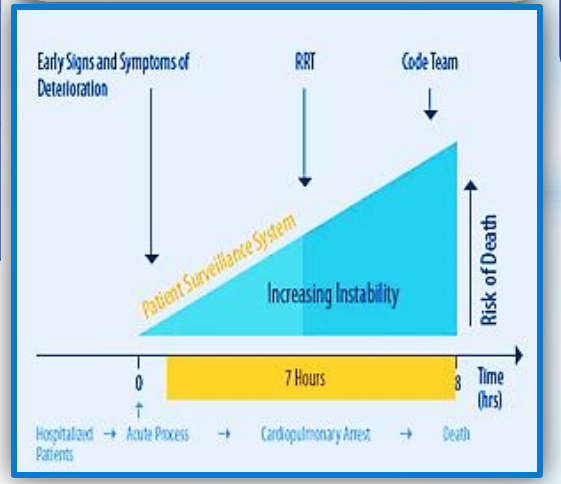
We implemented the methodology of model of improvement PDSA



Sustaining change

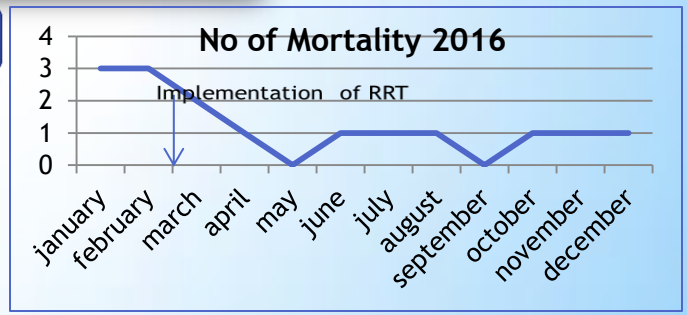
* The observation chart and program is now well integrated into clinical practice and the culture amongst staff
*monthly auditing of charts on is formulated all over the unit
* Auditing processes will form part of the Quality Plans for accreditation
* Regular education with new doctors occurs at orientation on each rotation. An explanation of the chart, escalation processes and responsibilities are clearly explained
*A shortened version of the training has been developed to be provided with mandatory education for all clinical staff





Conclusion

* The evidence supports use of early warning scoring systems improved mortality and morbidity rate and the number of transferring patients to the next level of care has been reduced by the end of 2016



Lessons learned

* We feel that understanding how to improve the detection, recognition and response to patient deterioration requires the deconstruction of the old processes to shift to another level of care their component parts. By reconstructing the process in a fail safe way, inefficiencies can be eradicated and patient safety increased
* it is important that the right people are involved within each healthcare organization, and that efforts to improve the safety of patients vulnerable to deterioration are an ongoing process.

References

*Recognition and Management of Patients who are Clinically Deteriorating, New South Wales Government Health Procedure. http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2013/PD2013_049.html
* HMC policy CL 6111 recognition and response to clinically deteriorating patients

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