

Creative Integration of Evidence-Based Practice into Established Nursing Care

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ABSTRACT

- Purpose:**
 - The Center for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS) has introduced hospitals to evidence-based interventions instrumental in promoting the best outcomes for patients who have a diagnosis of Pneumonia. However, Palmetto Health Baptist has integrated these evidenced-based interventions to benefit all patients.
- Significance:**
 - In 1900, Pneumonia and Influenza was the number one killer in the United States. Over 100 years later, both are still number six. Pneumonia and Influenza kill over 60,000 people in the US each year and cause over 250,000 hospitalizations, plus millions of healthcare dollars.
- Strategy and Implementation:**
 - The key to success is to integrate the evidence based practice measures into current practice. Each Performance Measures is incorporated into the care for all patients. These methods are simple, fun, creative and have added to the recognition of staff. An integrative approach applies all "performance measures" regardless of the diagnosis related Performance Initiative; therefore, all patients benefit from the performance measure. An important measure is to provide Pneumonia vaccines to all patients over 65 and an Influenza vaccine to all patients over 50. Palmetto Health Baptist has broadened that intervention by offering the Pneumonia and Influenza vaccine to all at-risk adult patients who are admitted regardless of diagnosis.
- Evaluation:**
 - In the last few years Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital has increased compliance from 64% to over 95% with the CMS Performance Measures and is in the top 10% in the nation for reduced mortality rates for patients with Pneumonia.
- Implications for Practice:**
 - Integrating these measures into a variety of diagnoses promotes critical-thinking, outcome-based results, and appropriate allocation of resources. The ability of providers to produce positive outcomes will become the standard for reimbursement, meeting healthcare needs, and potential to improve care.

INTRODUCTION

WHY IS INTEGRATION IMPORTANT?

- The performance measures become the standard.
- All patients benefit from evidence-based practice.
- Quality becomes the norm.
- Intervention is based on patient outcomes rather than diagnoses.

METHOD

Each evidence-based intervention (or performance improvement measure) is linked to a specific diagnosis. However, with "creative integration", each evidence-based intervention is given to ALL patients who need them regardless of the patient's diagnosis.

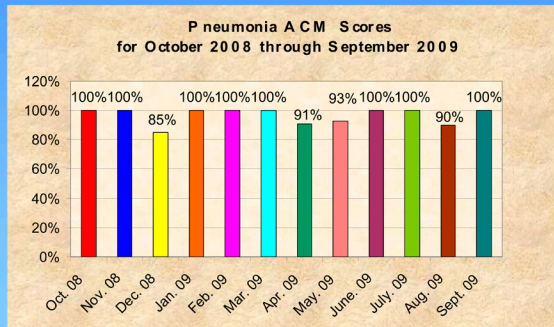
Examples of Creative Integration

The CMS Performance Measures for Pneumonia (evidence-based practice) apply to ALL patients not just those with a diagnosis of Pneumonia.

Therefore, regardless of diagnosis:

- All patients receive an antibiotic within 6 hrs
- All patients receive needed vaccines for Influenza and Pneumonia
- All patients receive smoking cessation regardless whether they smoke or not.

Appropriate Care Scores for 2008-2009



An Example of Recognizing Staff

The Gnome-onia Award

- The Gnome-onia Award is presented each month to the nursing staff and physician who had the fastest time from the patient arrival to administering the initial dose of antibiotic to patients with a diagnosis of Pneumonia.
- A photo of each winner with the Gnome is posted on the Pneumonia Recognition Board in the Hospital Cafeteria and on their unit.



Conclusions

Although different diagnoses call for specific intervention, many evidence-based practices will benefit all patients. By integrating as many evidence-based practices into established nursing care, Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital has reduced all readmissions, complications, length of stay, hospital acquired conditions and mortality for all diagnoses. As more evidence-based practice guidelines are developed, hospitals should seek methods to integrate all performance measures into the standard of care which will promote the best outcomes for the patient and the health-care system.