Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
Prevention: It’s easy as 1-2-3!

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GOAL: To disseminate best practices in evidence-based, interprofessional, and patient-centered care. The objective for this project was to decrease VTE occurrences at Detroit Medical Center’s Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

Relevance/Significance
Adverse events related to VTEs are common and problematic, leading to poor clinical outcomes and prolonged hospital stays. In late 2012, the presenters then Clinical Improvement Specialists noted a higher than average rate of VTE occurrences amongst their patient populations in comparison to other MI hospitals in their respective consortiums.

Strategy and Implementation
The presenters analyzed the data and collaborated to co-lead the VTE Process Improvement which rolled out in January 2013. Primary initiatives included:
1. Education and increasing awareness of VTE
2. Multidisciplinary involvement
3. Ongoing monitoring

The education and promotion was presented to all HVSH staff members in 2013 including, but not limited to: all medical staff, residents, midlevel providers, pharmacy staff, nursing staff, quality department, clinical transformation, physical and occupational therapy staff, hospital administration, and select board members. The education included a PowerPoint presentation and the auditory ‘sing along’ “VTE, It’s Easy and 1,2,3.” The catchy VTE jingle reinforced prevention and prophylactic interventions.

Clinical process improvements included: better utilization of the electronic medical record (EMR) to facilitate ordering prophylaxis or documenting contraindications and communication amongst healthcare workers.

Significant improvements were realized. The cumulative rate for surgical patients went from 2.4% to 0.6% and for medical patients from 2.78% to 0.84%. Both populations were at three times the state mean and were reduced to at or below the state average in one year’s time.

Implications for Practice
Clinical practice changes resulted. By collaborating with others and working together we were able to transform the culture at DMC’s HVSH! Our rigorous effort to supply data served a practical purpose - we identified changes in process to improve quality of care and reduce costs.

Knowledge and understanding related to the prevalence of VTE and importance of prophylactic measures, as well as contraindications, improved nursing care. RNs provide patient education related to VTE prevention resulting in improved compliance.

Disclosure
The authors of this poster presentation, Laura Kern and Karen Adams, have NO relevant personal financial relationship with a commercial interest producing health care goods/service in the past 12 months. They are employees of the Detroit Medical Center owned by the Tenet Corporation, a for profit health care organization.

Note: Data shared is strictly confidential and for sharing purposes only amongst collaborative members. Permission to share obtained from Dr. Mark Montoney, Tenet, on March 31, 2014.

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