

Dedicated Admission Nurse



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Units: Cardiac Observation Unit (COU), Emergency Observation Unit (EOU), and Medical Observation Unit (MOU)

Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC)

PICOT Question

Does utilizing a dedicated admission nurse in the Observation Units over the course of 4 weeks increase the completion rate of the admission checklist within the allotted 12-hour time-frame, compared to the primary nurse being responsible for its completion?

Description of Change

- NGMC “Initial Patient Assessment and Reassessment – Patient Care” policy was used in conglomeration with managers and unit educator to create an admissions checklist.
- We manually reviewed patient charts from EOU, MOU, and COU to gather baseline data for completion rates prior to intervention.
- EOU charge nurses were provided teaching on what items needed to be charted on admission and where and how to chart those items appropriately.
- Manual chart reviews were then performed on EOU patients following implementation of an admission nurse and teaching to track changes in completion rates.

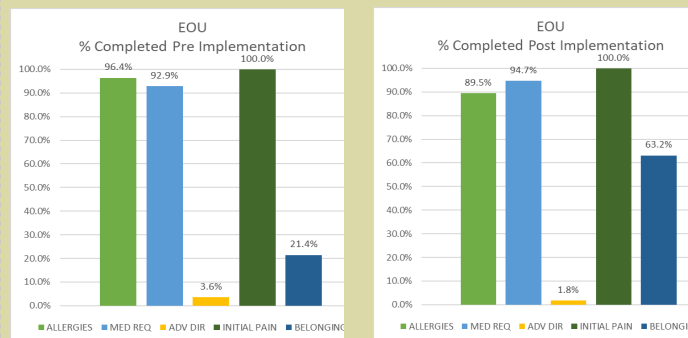
Recommendation

- If staffing allows, utilize one nurse specifically for all admissions. If unable to have a specific admission nurse, utilize the charge nurse for admissions and completion of items on the checklist.
- Provide teaching to all staff nurses and new oncoming nurses on the admission process workflow.
- Have a physical printed copy of the admission checklist readily available for reference on all observation units.
- Increasing the length of the study to a three-month period or longer would likely have improved significance of data trends.

Evidence Summary

- A dedicated admission nurse decreased the number of interruptions during the admission process, thus decreasing adverse safety events caused by missed information during the admission process (Takashima et al., 2022).
- Due to the time necessary to complete admission documentation, nurses find it difficult to complete thorough admission documentation in a timely manner. A dedicated admission nurse allowed for more detailed admission documentation, thereby increasing patient safety (Siehoff, et al., 2009).

Results



These results indicate that having a designated admission nurse increases the completion rate of the admission checklist.

References

Northeast Georgia Medical Center. (2021, May 17). *Initial Patient Assessment and Reassessment - Patient Care*. Gainesville, Georgia.

Siehoff, A., Gancarz, B., & Wise, C. (2009). Improving patient admissions with dedicated admission nurses. *JONA: The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 39(1), 11–13. <https://doi.org/10.1097/nna.0b013e31818fe75c>

Takashima, M. D., Horton, A., Day, K., Parsons, A., Tummon, G., Hare, D., & Henderson, A. (2022, May 15). *Nurses' and patients' perceptions on interruptions on admission processes at an acute public hospital using cross-sectional survey*. Retrieved June 6, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.colegn.2022.02.003>