

Marco Oldsman, Fuld Fellow Cohort II



As the number of patients with tracheostomies continues to increase, it is now standard for these patients to be cared for on non-specialized, general care units throughout the hospital. These patients are at a very high risk for harm since problems with tracheostomy can quickly develop into critical airway emergencies. As a result, patient safety incidents related to tracheostomy care have also been on the rise. The purpose of my quality improvement project is determine how to streamline the process of maintaining and monitoring adequate tracheostomy emergency supplies at the bedside as well as developing a process for ensuring the availability of supplies during transport to other areas of the hospital. Under the direction of Dr. Vinciya Pandian, the Johns Hopkins Hospital's tracheostomy nurse practitioner, I helped to develop a sealed bag of tracheostomy care supplies that can be kept at the bedside in the event of an emergency or accompany a patient while he is brought to another area of the hospital for a test or procedure. We implemented several trials of using these bags on various units and hope to expand this practice as the standard of care across the institution.

I am currently a candidate for BSN with anticipated graduation in December 2013. I hold a previous degree from Boston University in Health Science. I worked as a paramedic for several years before discovering nursing and deciding to pursue a second degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Through the Fuld Fellowship I have learned that the nursing profession has a key role to play in ensuring quality healthcare especially in the hospital setting. Evidence based practice research is extremely important in all clinical professions and needs further expansion in nursing. This research can be used to improve bedside care, patient outcomes, and delivery of care. It provides an expanded knowledge base in nursing, allowing nurses to make better-informed decisions about how to provide quality patient care.