Introduction & Background

- Tracheostomy: an artificial airway for critically ill patients in respiratory failure.
- Meticulous home care required to prevent manageable adverse events (accidental dislodgement, infection, and respiratory distress).
- Academic medical center in the Midwest: Lack of communication/care coordination surrounding tracheostomy discharge education.
- Documentation inconsistencies.
- Evidence-Based Solution.

Methods

- Design: Pre-Post Quality Improvement Project.
- Sample: Healthcare professionals on a surgical unit: Nurses (n=69) and Respiratory Care Practitioners (n=135).
- Adult (> 18 years) tracheostomy patients on a surgical unit.
- Setting: 28 bed, adult surgical-telemetry acute care unit.
- Primary Patient Population: Non-Trauma Emergency, Otolaryngology, Head/Neck Cancer Reconstruction.
- Intervention: Hand-Off Communication Form: standardized process that facilitates communication and serves as a method to document education.
- Focuses on: proper hand hygiene, skills competencies, & emergency preparedness.
- Procedures:
  - RedCAP: 5-question pre-survey and a 7-question post-survey.
  - 1st session: Staff introduced the educational topic.
  - 2nd session: Staff demonstrated skill.
  - 3rd session: Patient/Caregiver returned demonstration.
  - Weekly Audits.

Results

- Following 12-week implementation: Nurses (n=9) demonstrated a small improvement (median score of 14 vs.15) in the understanding of the discharge plan.
- Results from a Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test (Z= -.105, p= 0.916) did not elicit a statistically significant change.
- Majority of the nurses reported good (n=7) and very good (n=1) communication among team members.

Conclusion

- A standardized discharge education protocol may:
  - Possibly serve as a prerequisite to successfully prepare tracheostomy patients for a safe transition to home.
  - Positively impact the healthcare provider’s understanding of the discharge plan and encourage team members’ communication.
- Next Steps: Transform tool into EMR.

Purpose & Aims

Purpose: Evaluate whether the implementation of a hand-off communication form among health care professionals caring for adult (>18 years) tracheostomy patients on an acute care surgical unit will increase the team’s understanding of the patient’s discharge process and enhance communication.

Aim 1: Increase the health care professional’s understanding of the adult tracheostomy patient’s discharge education plan.

Aim 2: Increase communication regarding discharge education among health care professional’s caring for adult tracheostomy patients.

Aim 3: To assess health care professional’s satisfaction with utilizing the hand-off form.

- 66.67% (n=6) of the nurses reported satisfaction with the tool and were interested in continuing to use the form.
- Majority of the nurses reported good (n=7) and very good (n=1) communication among team members.

References
REFERENCES


