

Assessment of Ongoing Challenges with the Parental Nutrition Ordering Processes Within the Lehigh Valley Health Network

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INTRODUCTION

- Parental nutrition (PN) is an intravenous nutrition therapy for those whose gastrointestinal tract cannot be used
- In 2012, the Nutrition Support Services PN Interdisciplinary Team (TPN team) was created at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) – Cedar Crest to help combat issues with the TPN ordering process
 - Despite improvements from the implementation of the TPN team, registered dietitians (RD) and pharmacists continued to report difficulty with the PN management process

METHODS

Data Collection

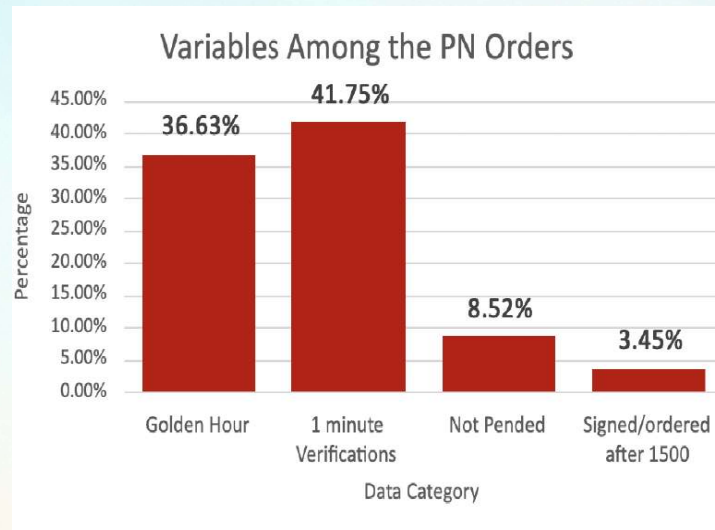
- A retrospective assessment of PN orders from LVH-Cedar Crest, LVH-Hecktown Oaks and LVH-Muhlenberg was performed from November 2022 to April 2023
- A Weby EPIC PN order report was obtained and included:
 - Ordering provider department
 - Ordering provider division
 - Medication name (PN template name)
 - Pended date and time of PN order
 - Signed date and time of PN order

Data Categories

- Golden Hour (PN orders submitted between 2-3 pm)
- 1-minute pharmacy verifications between 2-3 pm
- TPN Team orders (Cedar Crest site only)
- Not Pended PN orders (PN orders presumed with no RD involvement)
- PN orders signed/ordered after 3pm

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RESULTS



Thirty-three percent (33%) of PN orders (674) were ordered within the golden hour, 42% (848) had 1-minute verification completed by the pharmacy team between 2-3pm, 9% (173) were not pended by an RD and independently ordered by a physician and 3% (70) of PN orders were submitted after 3pm.

- On average, the time of pended to signed orders for the network was 1.18 hours.
- TPN team orders made up 46.82% (951) of the Cedar Crest orders.
- On average, the pended to signed time of the of the TPN team was 1.07 hours, indicating a minimal time savings of having a designated PA-C for PN ordering compared to the network.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE DIRECTION

- This data indicates greater than 1 hour bottlenecking of PN order to the pharmacy team
 - Additionally, this may highlight a potential patient safety risk when pharmacy has limited time to verify PN compatibility due to 1-minute verifications between 2-3 pm
- To combat these challenges, allowing RDs to independently order PN orders could potentially reduce pharmacy bottlenecking and rush verifications and PN orders submitted after 3 pm, thus improving patient care