Advancing a Culture of Safety: Staff Driven, Evidence Based Practice Approach to Safe Patient Movement

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Problem

- Aging workforce and nursing shortage.
- 12% of RN’s leave the workforce each year due to back pain.
- Repositioning/boosting has the highest risk for injury.
- Patients experience pain, shearing forces and skin tears due to manual lifting techniques.
Question

- How should an 800+ bed, Magnet designated hospital embed safe patient movement within the organization’s existing culture of safety?
Goals

- Assess exposures and risks to patients and staff.
- Investigate safe patient handling devices.
- Pilot selected devices on designated units.
- Recommend and obtain devices and educate caregivers in “culture of safety.”
Success Factors

- Reduce the number of pressure sores and patient falls.
- Reduce employee reported injuries related to patient handling and movement.
- Reduce lost work days, workers comp and career ending injuries.
**Assumptions**

- Employee injuries related to patient handling will increase without interventions.
- Average age of healthcare worker will increase.
- New healthcare workers will demand safer environments.
Assumptions

- Safe patient handling equipment and technology will become more available in healthcare settings.

- Patients and staff will benefit from safe patient handling programs.
Employee Injuries

- Employee Health statistics -
  “boosting/repositioning” #1 injury

- Selected 6 units with highest rate of staff injuries, across all three sites, including CC, M/S and ED

- TSU, 6T, TOHU, OR, RHC-M, ED(M), 7B*
Unit Assessments

- Industrial Hygienist assisted with unit data collection.

- What type of patients on unit?

- What patient care activities are common?

- What is available?

- Where is it stored?

- When is it used/not used?

- Why is it used/not used?
Decisions

- What type of equipment is needed to support patient care activities on specific units?
- What equipment is already available?
- Host product demonstration fair- all three sites, separate days.
- 400 staff attended and evaluated equipment.
Results

- Products with favorable staff reviews chosen.
- Vendors set up equipment in mock rooms.
- Staff interacted, provided information.
- Ceiling lift vendor chosen for new tower and pilot unit.
Staff Attitudes and Beliefs

- March 2006 - staff on identified high risk units completed survey (n=111).

- 93% of staff 45 years of age or older reported they or a colleague have sustained injury related to patient care.
Staff Attitudes and Beliefs

- 73% of staff on med-surg/rehab floor responded that they would change jobs to work at a facility that provided safe patient movement devices.

- Results shared with Senior Management.
Pilot

- December 2006- TSU installed 17 ceiling lifts for 28 beds (6 private rooms, 11 semi-private rooms).

- All day training- all staff assigned to attend. “Go-live,” next day.

- Learnings- slings, laundry, constant reinforcement needed.
Phased Implementation

- $1.4 million budgeted for ceiling lifts in new tower.

- Proactive installation plan for new construction.

- Product selection continues on units.

- Motorized stretchers/wheelchairs for transport team.
Six Month Re-survey

- “Staff Attitudes and Beliefs” on TSU, the pilot unit.

- “I get sufficient education, training and time to practice my skills regarding moving patients safely on my unit.”

- 2006-64.9%

- 2007-94.1%
Staff Attitudes and Beliefs

“Appropriate and easy to use devices to help me effortlessly lift or move patients stop me from lifting patients.”

- 2006-43.2% agreed
- 2007- 81.3% agreed
Staff Attitudes and Beliefs

“Use of mechanical lifts eliminates all the risk of manual lifting.”

- 2006 - 32.4% agreed
- 2007 - 66.7% agreed
Staff Attitudes and Beliefs

“My supervisor emphasizes the importance of safely moving patients on my unit.”

- 2006 - 89.1% agree
- 2007 - 100% agree
Patient Outcomes

- Falls-CY2006-rate 6.3
  - CY2007-rate 5.3 (5 months data)

- Pressure Sores-CY 2006 rate 1.5
  - CY 2007 rate 1.36 (5 months data)

- Note-Overall data is for entire unit- unable to extract for ceiling lift specific patients.
Staff Reported Injuries

- **CY 2005** - TSU staff injuries related to patient handling and movement - 16
- **CY 2006** – 10 injuries related to patient handling and movement.
- **CY 2007** - January - June - 2 injuries reported. One on side of unit without ceiling lifts and the other due to staff “lifting” a patient’s legs into bed.
Embedding a Culture of Safety

- Attendance/poster presentation at national conferences.
- Incorporation of safe patient movement into orientation and recruitment activities.
- Engage point of care staff in decisions related to product selection.
- Staff champion use of lift assist devices and promote safe patient movement.
Team Development

**Key to success:**

- Senior management support.
- Identify the right people to accomplish the task.
- Personal invitations from team leader (phone calls).
- Educate, build interest and maintain momentum.
Team Members

- Terry Capuano - Sponsor*
- Molly Sebastian - Sponsor
- Anne Panik - Administrative leader
- Bonnie Kosman - Project Leader, Administrator TSU
- Beth Kessler - Director 6T
- Brenda Roccino - Designer Facilities and Construction
- Carol Guanowsky - Director Employee Health
- Charlene Smacci - Behavioral Health
- Charlotte Buckenmyer - Director ED, LVH-M
- Colette Wint - Physical Therapy
- Craig Laverty - OR Team Coordinator
- Dave Fox - Supervisor Linen Services
- Don Hougendobler - Director of Safety
- Gwen Kutzner - Behavioral Health
Team Members

- Jack Dunleavy - OD Consultant
- Jeff Myers - Supervisor Patient Transport
- Joe Pearce - Director NSICU
- Kristi Lowery - Risk Management/Pt. Safety
- Lori Yesenofski - Products Nurse
- Maryann Rosenthal - Director 7B/6K
- Michelle Maron - Infection Control Nurse
- Rita Bendekovits - Quality Manager
- Roz Whitner - Contracts/ Product Line Mgr.
- Sandy Tremblay - Physical Therapy Education Spec.
- Stephanie Pacelli - Pt Care Services Analyst
- Susan Steward - Director Nursing Education
- Tammy Straub - Director, Perioperative Services
- Tim Docherty - Safety - Industrial Hygienist
- Vicki Cunningham - Director Home Care
Questions?