Bedside Neurological Exams

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Bedside Neurological Exams

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Project Purpose:
To improve handoff validity at Lehigh Valley Health Network by using the best available evidence to support bedside change of shift neurological examinations.
PICO QUESTION

- Does change of shift nurse to nurse neurological examination at the bedside versus verbal neurological examination report affect identification of early neurological changes?
EVIDENCE

Throughout our research on Bedside Report we utilized:

- **A systematic review, determining best practices in handoff reports**
  - Examined 95 studies to determine best practice related to nursing handoffs.
  - Twenty were research articles, but none were randomized controlled trials
  - Four were cross-sectional
  - One study was qualitative
  - Communication was found to be the biggest barrier to an effective handoff.
    - Good communication led to an increase in safety & effectiveness through med error catches and the prevention of CMS “never events”
    - It was found that 70% of adverse events were caused by a breakdown in communication.
  - Standardized strategies and inclusion of the patient and family were noted as a key factor in effective handoffs.
  - Identified a need for high-quality studies of nurse handoff outcomes

- **2 Cohort studies**
  - Standardized/structured reports warranted more effective results
  - Non-standardized results lacked pertinent patient info
    - 11.76% of pertinent information was not included during report, this led to incongruence in care 50.9% of the time.
EVIDENCE

- **3 Case study reviews**
  - Good communication warranted positive results
  - Structured bedside reports led to an increase in patient and nurse satisfaction
  - A lack of communication causes majority of adverse events

- **2 Descriptive and 1 Qualitative Study**
  - Increase in nurse to nurse accountability, med reconciliation, and the ability to immediately communicate with physicians.
  - Standardized reports cut overtime hours from 100 to 66.
BARRIERS & STRATEGIES

- **Barrier:**
  - Paucity of current research.
  - Previous to the study, bedside neurological exams at handoff were already being conducted.

- **Strategy to Overcome:**
  - Thorough research
  - Generalization of current bedside report studies.
Expected Outcomes

Bedside Neurological Exams will:

- Lead to early catches in neurological changes.
- Allow for more timely communication with physicians.
- Increase nurse to nurse accountability.
- Allow for medication reconciliations.
- Prevent CMS “never events”.

PROJECT PLANS

- Record occurrences of neurological status changes caught at the bedside exam.

- Implement an RN survey regarding impact of bedside change of shift report

- Review survey returns for practice improvement opportunities
### RN Survey Results 71% Return Rate

1. Bedside neurological shift report makes people accountable

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2. Bedside neurological shift report helps me prioritize my workload

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3. Bedside neurological shift report also allows me to perform medication reconciliation

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4. Immediately after bedside neurological shift report, I am able to communicate with providers regarding patient care

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5. Approximately how many times have you picked up a neurological change at change of shift?

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<th>&gt;5 times or more</th>
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83% of nurses surveyed agree or strongly agree bedside shift report allows for better prioritization of workload. agree or strongly agree
References