Pragmatic Interventions to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Venous Thromboembolism Events.

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Pragmatic Interventions to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Venous Thromboembolism Events

7C - Hematology Oncology Medical-Surgical Unit
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

This poster discusses strategies utilized to improve patient compliance with venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis.

WHAT IS VTE?
Formation of blood clots in any vein
Location in deep vein - “deep vein thrombosis”
DVT
Travel to lungs - “pulmonary embolism”
PE

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE
Venous thromboembolism events are prevalent in hospitalized oncology patients, due in part to their relative stasis and disease condition. These events add to morbidity and mortality and increase costs and length of stay. Though largely preventable, many patients may not receive prophylaxis, such as anticoagulants, sequential compression devices (SCDs) and ambulation, due to a variety of factors.

SIGNIFICANCE
7C Hematology Oncology Unit had the highest incidence of VTEs in the hospital. Identified root causes were: staff and patient knowledge deficit regarding rationale; anticoagulant injection discomfort and bruising, and, SCD inconvenience.

INTERVENTIONS
• Nurse Resident EBP project on best practice technique for subcutaneous anticoagulant injections
• Electronic self-study and 1:1 education on importance of prophylaxis for staff
• Patient education regarding DVT prevention upon admission
• Bedside shift report discussion and Leadership Rounding in early AM regarding prophylaxis compliance
• Discussion with team at daily safety huddle and collaborative rounds
• Magnet on communication boards showing prophylaxis compliance or refusal

EVALUATION
There was a decrease in VTE number and percentage following defined interventions.

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Risk Factors for VTE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stasis</th>
<th>Hypercoagulable State</th>
<th>Endothelial Damage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Admission</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immobility</td>
<td>High venous state</td>
<td>Prior VTE</td>
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<td>CRF</td>
<td>Inflammatory Bowel Syndrome</td>
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<td>Stroke</td>
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<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>Polycythemia</td>
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References:

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