

Improving Clinical Alarm Management through EBP and Enculturation of Spirit of Clinical Inquiry

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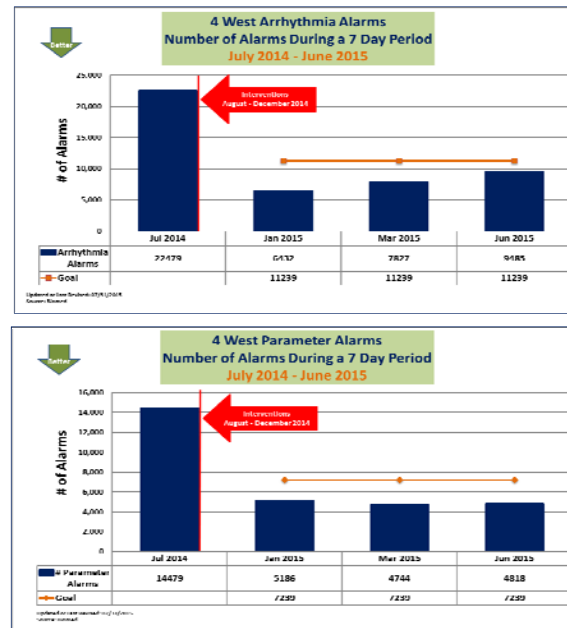


Background of the Study

- ❖ Alarm fatigue for nursing is due to over exposure to large number of alarms.
- ❖ Due to the large number of alarms, nursing's response may be delayed, or overlooked.
- ❖ The Joint Commission's 2014 National Patient Safety Goal requires hospital leaders to institute and prioritize alarm safety.

Material and Methods

- ❖ Interdisciplinary Team was formed and the Biomedical Engineer collected baseline data information.
- ❖ The CNS reviewed and shared best practices as related to ECG monitoring with the Shared Governance Standards of Practice Council.
- ❖ The presentation was goal directed to update and align nursing practice, telemetry and cardiac monitoring policies.
- ❖ Alarm rounds were conducted by Biomedical Engineer and the CNS on one in-patient unit to observe alarm management by bedside clinicians.
- ❖ The motivated nurse manager narrated the Alarm Rounds education and placed it on the unit website.



References

- Cvach, M. Monitor alarm fatigue: an integrative review. biomedical instrumentation and technology. July/August 2012, 268-277.
- Sendelbach, S., and Funk, M. Alarm fatigue: a patient safety concern. AACN Advanced Critical Care. 2013;(24)4: 378-386.
- <http://www.aacn.org/wd/practice/docs/practicealerts/alarm-management-practice-alert.pdf>

Conclusions

- ❖ Providing real time review and education engaged and inspired bedside nurses to incorporate learned best practices.
- ❖ ECG alarm data post intervention revealed a 77% reduction in both arrhythmia and parameter alarms and a 67% reduction in technical alarms.

Next Steps

- ❖ Collaborate with the entire CNS and educator teams to disseminate ECG evidence based practices facility wide.
- ❖ Focus on the implementation of AHA guidelines with telemetry monitoring to ensure appropriate usage of the monitoring practice.
- ❖ Disposable lead trial to further enhance the accuracy of ECG tracing and decreasing further alarm fatigue.

Acknowledgement

Christopher George and the Biomedical Team

Interdisciplinary Alarm Management Team

4 West Nursing Team

