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.

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

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References