Improving the Stroke Education Performance Measure (STK8)
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Background

• STK-8 Stroke Education is an externally reported National Quality Indicator that is publically available through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Quality Measures on the Hospital Compare website - www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/
• Ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke patients or their caregivers who were given education materials during the hospital stay addressing all of the following: activation of EMS, need for follow-up after discharge, medications prescribed at discharge, risk factors for stroke, and warning signs and symptoms of stroke.
• Current performance was 41% well below the Illinois Average of 84% and below the National Average of 85%.

The Intervention

• Nursing education, Epic and Quality collaborated on the documentation necessary to capture the components of this measure.
• Documentation education was presented on the Neurology Units to ensure consistent documentation within the Patient Education Tool utilizing a multimedia, checklist, and tracer approach.
• A mechanism for feedback regarding performance was created between Nursing Management, Center for Nursing Professional Practice & Research with Quality through Outlier Letters.
• Abstracted non-compliant cases are communicated via email to Nursing Education for follow-up with Nursing and Management.
• Outlier Letter compliance is reported out at the monthly Primary Stroke Center meetings.
• Overall measure performance is reported out at the monthly Primary Stroke Center meetings in a control chart for opportunities for improvement.

Aims

• To improve the Stroke Education Core Measure (STK-8) from 41% compliance through nursing education and collaboration.
• Encourage utilization of the Patient Education Tool for documentation of Stroke Education.

Results

• Performance improved to 100% for the months of June, July, September, October, January and February.
• Outliers for August, November and December were not on Neurology Specialty Units.
• Mean performance is at 74.6%

Lessons Learned

• Comprehensive Stroke Center standards of care need to be incorporated into the core education of all nursing staff during orientation and annually.
• Comprehensive Stroke Center core measure performance needs to be communicated to the interdisciplinary team on a quarterly basis.
• The feedback loop is essential for improvement.

Next Steps

• Development of an automated report system that captures stroke patients and their associated core measures.
• Development of standardized templates for the interdisciplinary team notes to facilitate communication of patient’s progress and addressed core measures.

References:


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