

Transitioning from the PICU to the General Floor

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Purpose

The aim of this project is to decrease anxiety in patients and families that transfer out of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) to the general floor. The goal is to increase patient/ family satisfaction and decrease transfer anxiety by creating a Transfer Information Handout that explains to families what to expect in regards to the general floor and how the transfer is a positive step towards going home. By assisting families in coping with the transition to the general floor, families can concentrate on supporting the patient's recovery.

Background

In our current practice, a standard process for which we transfer patients from the PICU to the general floor does not exist. Information given about general floor may differ from patient to patient. Going from a higher level of acuity to a lower level of acuity can generate transfer anxiety. Families experience anxiety when leaving the security of the close monitoring seen in ICU (Leith, 1999) and their anxiety reduces their ability to play a key role in the patient's recovery (McShane, 1991; Leske, 1992) (Mitchell et al, 2003). Written information about transfer has the benefit of providing patients and families with a record of facts to which they can subsequently refer (Mitchell et al, 2003).

Methods

A pre- intervention questionnaire was given to the parents of 16 patients that were transferred from the PICU to the general floor. After the baseline data was collected, the bedside nurse gave the Transfer Information Handout to parents once the physician had written orders for the patient to be transferred to the general floor, and before the patient was actually transferred. A post-intervention questionnaire was given to 16 parents that received the Transfer Information Handout.

Results: pre- questionnaire

The questionnaire was given to parents of 16 patients.

7 participants (43.8%) felt that receiving information about transferring to the general floor would be helpful.

2 participants had no opinion on whether or not they felt information would be helpful.

7 participants (43.8%) felt that receiving information about transferring to the general floor would not be helpful. Of those 7, 2 stated that they have been to the general floor and knew what to expect and 2 stated that the MDs and nurses explained everything.

14 participants (87.5%) stated that they have no concerns about the transfer to the general floor. 2 participants had concerns about the safety of immunocompromised patients and going to a room where the patient would be able to rest.

Results: post- intervention questionnaire

The questionnaire was given to 16 parents that received the Transfer Information Handout.

3 parents (18.8%) felt that was not enough time to read the handout.

14 participants (87.5%) found the handout very helpful with the transfer process. 1 participant (6%) found the handout somewhat helpful. 1 participant (6%) found the handout not helpful because they already knew what to expect.

8 participants (50%) had concerns about transferring. 1 participant was concerned about patient care, 1 participant was nervous about transferring, 2 participants had concerns about sharing a room, and 1 participant was concerned because he/ she were originally told that the patient was being transferred to IICU, but was actually transferred to general care.

Conclusion

The Transfer Information Handout given to parents was helpful with the transition from the PICU to the general floor. The Transfer Information Handout should be given to parents at the same time as the transfer orders are written to ensure that parents have enough time to read the handout before the actual transfer to the general floor takes place. Further implications with this project include continuing the distribution of the Transfer Information Handout to parents prior to transfer, translating the Transfer Information Handout into Spanish, and contacting the family advocacy program about the Transfer Information Handout.

References

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