Problem:
Lack of knowledge as it relates to evidence based AHA GWTG stroke education. No hospital wide documentation tools and teaching materials were available to the bedside Registered Nurse.

Evidence:
After completion of our audits it was noted that in January 2009 evidence based, AHA, GWTG stroke education compliance was <40%.

Strategy:
A multidisciplinary task force was formed to address the utilization of the AHA, GWTG stroke education descriptors. The team utilized the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) model for improvement. The recommendation was made that the stroke education descriptors be included in the Intensive Care Unit Patient and Family Education Documentation (PFED) form, and within the computerized documentation Care Manager. In addition, a Stroke Education Booklet was assembled which included the AHA, GWTG descriptors. Representatives from each nursing unit attended an eight hour stroke resource nurse seminar. The seminar included an introduction of the evidence based AHA, GWTG and introduction of all of the tools needed to document teaching and compliance with the standards.

Evaluation:
A monthly audit was conducted on all stroke admissions within the hospital to identify AHA, GWTG stroke education. Areas that required improvement were noted with an action plan implemented to reach compliance.

Practice Change:
All Stroke patients receive comprehensive evidence based educational material in English and Spanish. The materials provide information on the stroke disease process as it relates to risk factors, warning signs of stroke, emergency care access, need for follow-up after discharge and medications prescribed. Computerized access of the AHA, GWTG materials.

Results:
Audits were conducted monthly to evaluate compliance with of the new set of stroke education tools. A steady increase over the next several months resulted in a 40% increase in compliance.

Recommendations:
Monitor the AHA, GWTG descriptors for changes that may occur and update educational tools accordingly. Compliance reporting to staff is updated monthly. Computerization of educational materials and documents for quick and consistent access.
Lessons Learned:
AHA “Get with the Guidelines” has enhanced the patient and family interactions with the physicians and staff regarding their understanding of their disease process.

Reference List: