Improving the Accessibility of Evidence-Based Practice across a Large Healthcare System

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Problem: In 2009 Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) launched an aggressive approach toward implementing evidence-based practice (EBP) interventions through development and deployment of 14 toolkits aimed at the reduction of hospital-acquired conditions (HACs). While this initiative was successful at reducing enterprise-wide HACs, point of service clinicians did not regularly utilize the EBP toolkits due to difficulty in accessing information, and the lack of integration of EBP tools with the electronic health record (EHR).

Evidence: Toolkit utilization across CHI has led to improved patient outcomes with a 30% improvement in HACs. Evidence shows electronic health records that report ease of use provide a valuable tool toward improved work processes.

Strategy: Improve CHI toolkit resources to include current evidence, end-user accessibility, usability, and EHR incorporation.

Practice Change: The CHI EBP toolkit resources are being incorporated into the EHR for enhanced accessibility by bedside clinicians. Healthcare workers are able to quickly access patient education, provider references, evidence-base practice screening resources, and CHI policies and procedures.

Evaluation: Continue to monitor CHI EBP outcome data. As CHI healthcare facilities incorporate a standardized EHR, EBP utilization data will be collected.

Results: The use of evidence-based toolkits across CHI has led to clinical excellence in patient outcomes by reducing HACs across the enterprise. CHI currently exceeds the national average in the reduction of hospital-acquired infections.

Recommendations/Lessons Learned: Evidence-based interventions and resources available at the point of care are enhancing the quality and safety of patient care and data driven decision making across CHI.

Bibliography:
Catholic Health Initiatives Business Intelligence Internal Analysis [Computer software]. (2010).