Multi-Disciplinary Approach on Delirium Recognition Initiative
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**Problem:** The Nurse Practitioner (NP) Program of a tertiary acute hospital is the responder of emergent events in which altered mental status and delirium are some of the highest incidences of calls received.

**Evidence:** Delirium is a condition that caused by multiple sources, in some cases, could be prevented, and if caught early enough can save lives, decrease morbidity, mortality and length of stay.

**Strategy:** The NP program and System Quality Office collaborated to develop an approach to increase the recognition of delirium as a first step in an overall goal to decrease the incidence and complications of delirium by educating the unit nurses about delirium and bedside teaching on utilization of a delirium screening tool that was located in the electronic medical record. Nursing administration endorsed starting a delirium screening program in two pilot units. NPs were required to complete an on-line delirium learning module, given additional programs on evaluation and management of delirium.

**Practice Change:** Delirium screening was incorporated in to the assessment of all patients on the pilot units. NP responded to delirium positive screens. Hospital administration has highlighted delirium recognition as the goal for every nursing department.

**Evaluation:** NPs were evaluated on the completion of the on-line learning module. Data reviewed on the utilization of the screening tool and the recognition of patients with delirium.

**Results:** All NPs have completed the on-line learning module. Unit nurses utilized delirium screening in assessment of patients over age 70. The hospital was able to use pilot program to receive a grant from CMS for Delirium Detection and Prevention across Continuum.

**Recommendations:** Substantial changes in nursing and medical care require strong collaborations. NPs play key role in implementation of delirium recognition programs. NP’s support nursing and improve patient outcomes through more efficient management of delirium.

**Lessons Learned:** NP provision of clinical and education support is key to collaborative quality improvement programs.

**Bibliography:**