Problem
The Pediatric Clinical Practice Committee at Central Dupage Hospital met to discuss concerns related to a patient satisfaction report for fiscal year 2008. It reported a mean of 66% of respondents rating staff management of pain as excellent. This committee along with the unit’s quality Council (all composed of front-line staff nurses) identified opportunities to improve overall assessment and management of pain on the unit.

Evidence
Our literature search showed that despite increasing awareness of pediatric pain, reports of inconsistent and inappropriate assessment and management continue to be documented.

Strategy
The Clinical practice Committee designed a study to address these concerns. The study consists of three domains: pediatric nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding pain, bedside management of pain, and patient and family satisfaction with pain management. The Pediatric Nurses’ Knowledge and Attitudes Survey Regarding Pain by Manworren (2008) was distributed to all inpatient pediatric and pediatric intensive care unit nurses as a pre-assessment, post-assessment and second post-assessment. Patient and family satisfaction with pain management was assessed using a patient satisfaction research vendor, Professional Research Consultants (PRC).

Practice Change
The committee implemented an evidence-based pediatric pain assessment and management guideline. The guideline provides recommendations for selecting an appropriate pain scale, utilizing non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic interventions, and side-effect management.

Evaluation
The initial plan for this study was to conduct a pre- and post-assessment only. Additional staff education was provided and a creative contest was used to engage staff. Then, we conducted a second post-assessment.

Results
Improvement was noted with the second post-assessment.

Recommendations
Further studies in pediatric pain research are needed. Other methods to implement the education of nurses may be helpful.
Lessons Learned
Changing practices can be a time-consuming and labor-intensive task. It took more time to reach our goal than anticipated.

Bibliography


