Pediatric Early Warning Scores (PEWS) Tool Implementation
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**Background**
- Children that are sick need to be monitored closely, so that signs and symptoms of distress can be caught early before a child’s condition deteriorates.
- When a child becomes ill, especially with a respiratory illness, they are at risk of deteriorating quickly and may die.
- Many times, the child’s symptoms are unrecognized because a clinician may not be proficient at assessment.

**Purpose Statement**
To facilitate the implementation of the Pediatrics Early Pediatrics Warning Scores (PEWS) tool for use in a general pediatric unit:
- Assess aspirations, strengths, barriers, and resources to using the tool.
- Develop strategies focused on systematic implementation.
- Assess nurses’ utilization of the tool after implementation.

**Methods**
- Quality Improvement Project using IHI Improvement Model & Utilizing PDSA to implement & test changes in practice

**Setting**
- 600-bed acute care hospital located in Southern California.
- 25- inpatient beds and four observational outpatient beds on a pediatric unit

**Conceptual Framework- PDSA - Institute of Health Improvement (IHI)**

**PDSA Cycle Ramps: Sequential Building of Knowledge**

**The Model for Improvement**
- What are we trying to accomplish?
- How will we know that a change is an improvement?
- What change can we make that will result in improvement?

**Focus Group Team Input**

**SOAR ANALYSIS MODEL**

**STRENGTHS**
- Nursing staff highly motivated to use tool
- Motivated nurses’ team
- Motivated doctors’ team
- Leadership support

**OPPORTUNITIES**
- Provide better patient care.
- Create systematic policies that everyone can follow.
- Standardized patient care
- Easy to navigate electronic charting flowsheet for PEWS

**ASPIRATION**
- Best practiced: implement, assess, and care.
- Improve patient outcomes.
- Improve communication.
- Provide care based on evidence.

**RESULTS**
- The quality improvement project being adapted on the pediatric unit
- Policies and standard of practice developed to support the ongoing use of the tool
- Information Technology (IT) creates an efficient navigation process in the electronic chart

**Implementation Plan**
- Focus Group brainstorming education plan
- Implement PEWS education Plan for Nurses
- Audit PEWS utilization over five months
- Evaluate effectiveness of PEWS implementation

**Evaluation Plan**
- Ongoing chart audit
- Monitor plan of action implemented for higher PEWS scores
- Monitor number of cases escalated to higher level of care

**Challenges/Outcome**
- Focus group unable to meet on a regular basis
- The Covid-19 pandemic played a major part in group participants due to changes in their work schedules
- Start date of implementation delayed due to hospital staff changes
- Additional time had to be set up for doctors to have the education

**Outcomes**
- Improved assessment skill using the PEWS tool
- Clear Communication: clinicians speaking from the same mental model
- Consistent utilization of PEWS

**Recommendations**
- Ongoing chart audits
- Yearly competency evaluation
- New hires education
- Float pool staff education
- Policy and standard of care development

**References**