Evidence to Support Standardized End of Life Care Utilizing Evidence-Based Training, Education, and Protocol/Order Sets

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Purpose Statement

Develop and implement evidence based standardized end of life care through education, case identification, and care delivery tools for adult med/surgical patients transitioned to comfort care as compared to current, non-standardized care for patients transitioned to comfort care.

Synthesis of Evidence

- Majority of literature Grade C or E.
- End of Life (EOL) care experience varies depending on setting of care, physician or provider, and nursing EOL experience.
- Top Ranked EOL competencies by nurses were: symptom management; communication about death/dying; and understanding comfort care/palliative care.
- Literature on standard end of life education supported use of ELNEC curriculum.
- Consensus supports the effectiveness of standardized order sets in improving adherence to accepted Palliative Care principles for pts @ EOL.

EBP Practice Change

- Care Delivery Process
  - Comfort Care Policy
    - Provides a consistent definition of comfort care
  - Comfort Care Order Set
    - Comprehensive order set for end of life care
    - Developed to standardize care for dying patient regardless of physical location in the hospital and provider or nursing experience
    - Majority of orders are pre-checked to standardize care
    - Recommended for use of all patient transitioned to comfort care
  - Comfort Care Nursing Assessment
    - Focused physical assessment completed twice daily
    - Developed to guide the nursing practice of caring for patient & families at end of life
    - Emphasizes focus of care should be on comfort of patient & family; assessing for signs of discomfort or active dying
  - Comfort Care Plan
    - Provides direction for a multidisciplinary approach to end of life care
    - Includes problems of Anxiety, Grieving, Pain, Breathing Pattern Altered, and Discharge Planning
    - Focuses on treatment of symptoms
- Patient Education
  - Transitions of Care education sheet for patients & families
- Staff Education
  - Computer based training, education flyer, and 90 minute live education for nursing
  - Rose & Hummingbird Magnet
- Provider Education
  - Live presentations, tip sheet, one on one discussions, and email reminders

Pre/Post Measures

- # of patients who died and were transitioned to comfort care
  - 2013: 60% (N=84)
  - 2014: 77% (N=118)
- # of patients with actual “Comfort Care” order
  - 2013: 14% (N=19)
  - 2014: 60% (N=93)
- Staff and family Quality of Death & Dying Survey data analysis in process

References