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Gina Anderson-Malum
CentraCare Health, andersonmalumg@centracare.com

Naomi Schneider
CentraCare Health, schneidern@centracare.com

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Utilizing a Protocol to Reduce Post-Operative Urinary Retention in Total Joint Arthroplasty

Gina Anderson-Malum, BSN, RN, ONC; Naomi Schneider MBA, BSN, RN, ONC
St. Cloud Hospital, St. Cloud, Minnesota

Plan

- Reviewed literature and benchmarks
- Patient complaints related to frequency and timing of bladder scanning and straight catheterization
- Determined documentation variations, coding variations, nursing practice variations, or variation in all three
- Educated ourselves and our team on urinary retention symptom codes and documentation requirements
  - Frequent provider documentation of “urinary retention”, being picked up as a urinary symptom code, when it was an expected outcome of surgery
  - Evaluated stakeholders, engaged them from the start
  - Coding specialists, clinical documentation specialists, clinical utilization specialists, performance improvement data analysts, Bone and Joint leadership and nursing staff, orthopedic surgeons, urology providers, Hospitalists, anesthetists, providers
- Discussions with Bone and Joint Center and PACU nursing staff to understand approach to the decision to bladder scan and/or straight catheterize
- Recognized drastic differences in practice as to what bladder scan amount, timing of scanning and straight catheterization amounts are

Check

- Urinary Symptom Codes, Total Hip and Knee Replacement Patients
  - Team created a goal to see a decline in assigned symptom codes to <5% of patients, which was a simple way to measure the performance improvement efforts of culture change and appropriate protocol use
  - Monthly measurement of patients coded with a defined urinary symptom code, acquired in the hospital
    - [78820-unscheduled retention of urine, 78821-incomplete bladder emptying, 78829-other specified retention of urine] in elective TKA (81.54) and THA (81.51) patients from DRGs 469 and 470

- Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Tool
  - Captured risk assessment of chronic health conditions, determined inconsistency in documentation of conditions pre-operatively in H&P
  - Captured results of protocol use, as defined in order set
  - Protocol followed as defined by patient symptoms, bladder scan amount, timing of scanning and straight catheterization amounts

Act

- Overall goal to provide total joint replacement patients with a consistent standard of care when experiencing post-operative urinary retention such as retention.

Protocol specifics:
- Initiated with surgeon order, as part of post-operative order sets
- Nurse implements if patient unable to void 8 hours after start of procedure, 8 hours after any straight catheterization in surgery or PACU, or 8 hours after admission
- When to bladder scan a patient who has not voided or voids in small amounts
- Amount at which to straight catheterize
- Separates orders based on patients being symptomatic vs. asymptomatic
  - Symptoms may include bladder pressure or pain, anxiety
- Parameters to notify providers and/or initiate Flomax
  - Encourage voiding at bedside, bedpan, commode prior to any bladder scan or straight catheterization

Ongoing performance improvement
- Random EMR audits each month, 10 THA and 10 TKA
  - Review of patient records without urinary codes assigned to compare clinical picture
  - Review clinical picture of patient cases assigned urinary codes
- Continue discussions with Bone & Joint value analysis team, coding specialists, Disease Specific Care committee and house wide performance improvement team
- Evaluate trends and patterns observe from EMR tool findings

Staff education and competency
- Nursing assistants complete majority of straight catheterizations
- Mandatory competency education for RNs and LPNs - all performed demonstration on a manikin
- All new Bone & Joint RNs and LPNs demonstrate competency in simulation, nursing assistants complete specific training which includes 1:1 instruction, demonstration on a manikin, and evaluation on three actual patients

Ongoing enculturation and monitoring
- House wide urinary catheter protocol currently being created, with our work to be utilized as a guide
- Continued opportunity to bladder scan less often
- Biannual competence for nursing assistants with demonstration via mannequin and/ or simulation
- Monitor use of protocol in other orthopedic order sets (was implemented in all other orthopedic order sets February, 2015)
- Continued evaluation of competency of straight catheterization for Bone & Joint RNs, LPNs, nursing assistants

Do

- Foley catheters have not routinely been used for our total joint patients for many years, leading staff to bladder scan and straight catheterize patients postoperatively. Bladder scanning and catheterization were identified as an inconsistent practice. Patients were commonly straight catheterized when nurses determined bladder scan volume and time of last void; yet the amounts for both decision to catheterize were inconsistent. Also, the clinical evaluation and treatment was inconsistent among physicians.
- Variations in practice included rationale for a urology consult, use of medications for urinary retention, and documentation.
- Baseline urinary retention condition codes ranged from 8-18%, which led our team to choose urinary retention as a performance measure in 2012 for The Joint Commission Disease Specific Care Certification.
- Objective: Describe the clinical and cultural impact the total joint urinary protocol has on decreasing urinary retention

References


