Beacon Journey: Improving Patient Outcomes: Reducing Adverse Drug Events Using an Inter-Professional Team Approach

Laurie Annett  
CentraCare Health, annettl@centracare.com

Nicole Higel-Backes  
CentraCare Health, higel-backesn@centracare.com

Jaclyn Hoppe  
CentraCare Health, hoppejac@centracare.com

Michelle Huffman  
CentraCare Health, huffmanm@centracare.com

Teresa Jahn  
CentraCare Health, teresa.jahn@centracare.com

See next page for additional authors

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Recommended Citation
Annett, Laurie; Higel-Backes, Nicole; Hoppe, Jaclyn; Huffman, Michelle; Jahn, Teresa; Klein, Bridget; Mackedanz-Johnson, Jessica; Skillings, Kirsten; Theis, Jayna; and Thoma, Jessica, "Beacon Journey: Improving Patient Outcomes: Reducing Adverse Drug Events Using an Inter-Professional Team Approach" (2016). Nursing Posters. 57. 
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Authors
Laurie Annett, Nicole Higel-Backes, Jaclyn Hoppe, Michelle Huffman, Teresa Jahn, Bridget Klein, Jessica Mackedanz-Johnson, Kirsten Skillings, Jayna Theis, and Jessica Thoma
**Plan**

Literature states that the use of sedation regimens that include routine reversal of benzodiazepines or narcotic agents are not recommended. An inter-professional team concurred that planned reversals would no longer be the standard of practice for patients post-procedural sedation.

**Do**

An inter-professional team:
- Analyzed current sedation practices and the use of reversal agents
- Reviewed literature related to sedation and analgesia by non-anesthesiologists
- Proposed recommendations for practice changes

**Team Members**
- Cardiology Physicians
- Quality Leadership Academy
- Medical Executive Committee
- Electrophysiology Physicians
- Medical Care Review Committee
- Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee

**Check**

Pre and Post Outcomes data

Since implementation of this practice change, the Heart and Vascular Center has drastically reduced the number of planned reversals from 60 in 2013 to 6 by the first quarter of 2015.

The Telemetry unit has experienced (8-4-0-0-0) planned reversals for the last 5 consecutive quarters.

Ongoing monitoring of outcomes is performed by the Medication safety pharmacist and reported to the Pharmacy Therapeutics and house wide Performance and Improvement committees.

**Act**

American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) guidelines and proposed practice changes were reinforced with Cardiology MDs, Electrophysiology MDs, and Practice nurses during monthly and face to face meetings.

**Educational Topics for Nursing Staff:**
- ASA guidelines/recommendations for reversal post sedation
- Pharmacokinetics of narcotics and benzodiazepine sedatives and reversal agents
- Created a culture of confidence to empower nurses to speak-up and promote best practice
- Care and monitoring of the patient pre and post sedation
  - Oximetry monitoring
  - ETCO2 monitoring
  - Vital sign frequency
  - Non pharmacological interventions

**Education Methods:**
- Unit meetings
- Annual education day
- Monthly newsletters
- Annual computer training on sedation
- Order sets updated to reflect ASA recommended guidelines

**Other**

Implementation of sedation narrator in the EMR

**References**


annah@centracare.com