Sedation Algorithm Revisions

Introduction: The goal of this Quality Improvement project is to maximize efficiency, avoid delays, minimize costs and ensure safe outcomes for patients. A review of the on-call process for after-hours sedated cases revealed that costs quadrupled in the 2013-2016 period. Over 50 minutes per patient spent coordinating the imaging team, resulting > $100K.

Methods: A Rapid Process Improvement methodology was utilized to determine scope and targets. This included collaboration with inpatient and outpatient attending and resident physicians. The scope included the on call process for sedated medical imaging cases. A new ordering set was developed which included the priority level and clinical information within the sedation consult. The algorithm was revised and approved. An educational tool was provided to physicians. The target metrics for this project include Order accuracy, cost, and prep time. Monthly tracking of data reviewed the number of call cases, time spent arranging case, percentage of time the new ordering set was used, and revenue analysis.

Results: The average time spent arranging case decreased from 48.31 minutes to 5.73 minutes from September 2017 - January 2018. The percentage of time the new order set was used increased from 0% in September 2017 to 50% in January 2018. Revenue savings from Sept 2016 -2017 was $10,000. Projected savings for 2018 is $20,000.

Conclusions: Overall time and money spent arranging cases go down, even in light of increased call cases. Participation in the use of the new order set requires increased reinforcement of the process.

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