Gloucestershire Safety & Quality Improvement Academy



# Implementation of an Emergency Department Safety Checklist **Elinor Beattie**

### Background

Providing good basic care, including timely analgesia and regular observations for patients in Emergency Departments can be challenging. Variations in our practice had been noted by CQC inspectors and raised by staff and patients. This QIP to introduce a local standardised checklist for both Emergency Departments has been undertaken as part of a wider regional project supported by the West of England Academic Science Network.

#### Aims

The aim of this project is to standardise and improve the delivery of basic care to patients managed in the majors and resuscitation areas of both Emergency Departments. In particular:

To ensure that patients are getting regular repeat observations if indicated. To improve frequency of pain scoring and administration of pain relief if required. Improved documentation the above. To improve the safety and clinical outcomes for patients accessing the emergency care system

2016. This checklist was further modified following feedback and PDSA cycle. The checklist was introduced to GRH on 1st June 2016. Monthly data collection is ongoing for both sites, a randomised sample of 5% of eligible patients are reviewed and KPIs recorded on a standardised data collection sheet. The implementation team have regular meetings and a number of PDSA cycles have been completed to try and improve the use of the checklist on both sites.

#### Results

The project is ongoing. The checklist is being used in both sites and data analysis shows that when it is used there has been an improvement in pain management and the frequency and recording of vital signs.

#### **Methods**

Baseline data was collected for both departments using key performance indicators including pain scoring, frequency of observation and documentation of NOK/Refreshments offered. The checklist was adapted for local use and initially implemented in CGH in March

## **Next Steps**

This project has highlighted the difficulty of implementing a checklist in a busy Emergency Department when it is perceived that it is 'another piece of paper'. The next PDSA cycle involves the development and introduction of a paperwork booklet which contains both the checklist and the observation chart.



#### % Hourly Pain assessment and management



| 3rd hour comp<br>time:                                 | Pain score assessed                                |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | Analgesia administered (if necessary)              |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Review by senior doctor                            |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Regular medication administered (if appropriate)   |  |  |   |  |  |
| 4th hour completion time:                              | Vital signs measured + NEWS Recorded               |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Pain score assessed                                |  |  | × |  |  |
|  | Analgesia administered (if necessary)              |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Refreshments offered (if not NBM)                  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Regular medication administered (if appropriate)   |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Patient good to go:                                |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Patient ready for transfer                         |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Notes scanned                                      |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Drug chart written/prn analgesia if required       |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Specialty bed confirmed                            |  |  |   |  |  |
| Referrals & Pathway/Speciality<br>Triggers if required | Adult safeguarding referral                        |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | Paediatric Health Visitor referral                 |  |  |   | Box 1 - Specialty Bed Trigger:                   |  |
|  | Mental health proforma completed                   |  |  |   | NIV  Avening Ward or DCC                         |  |
|  | Mental Health/Crisis team referral                 |  |  |   | Obstetrics/Gynae - refer to GRH                  |  |
|  | Domestic or sexual violence Yes / No               |  |  |   | DKA = ACUC or DCC                                |  |
|  | MARAC form Yes/No                                  |  |  |   | Chest Drain   ACUC, Avening Ward or GS if trauma |  |
|  | Referral toDrug/ Alcohol Clinical Nurse Specialist |  |  |   | # NOF = T&O (Dixton)                             |  |
|  | Dementia awareness/purple butterfly                |  |  |   | Upper GI Bleed  C ACUC or Hazleton Ward          |  |
|  | Learning disability team contacted                 |  |  |   | Tracheostomy D DCC                               |  |





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