



Documentation, Patient Safety and Patient Outcomes

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A word cloud on a light gray background. The words are arranged in various orientations and colors. The most prominent words are 'RESEARCH' (large, pink, horizontal), 'PATIENT' (large, blue, horizontal), and 'COLLABORATION' (medium, pink, horizontal). Other words include 'SUPPORT' (vertical, blue), 'EHR' (horizontal, blue), 'OUTCOMES' (vertical, blue), 'SAFETY' (horizontal, red), 'PAPER' (horizontal, blue), 'TRAINING' (horizontal, blue), 'CHARTING' (horizontal, blue), 'DOCUMENTATION' (vertical, blue), and 'NURSES' (vertical, blue).

SUPPORT
EHR
OUTCOMES
SAFETY PAPER
TRAINING
CHARTING
PATIENT
COLLABORATION
RESEARCH
DOCUMENTATION
NURSES

“If you didn’t document it then you didn’t do it”

- Does everyone remember this from nursing school?
- Documentation is crucial to patient safety, optimal patient outcomes and for the success of a research study.
- It takes a little different meaning when thinking about research documentation, pt. safety and pt. outcomes.
- There can be excellent research documentation on a paper chart that is not accessible by other clinicians, only the study team.
- There is a disconnect from research documentation and clinical documentation for the patient.

Culture shift in regards to research documentation:

- Research Nurses can help push this culture shift and continue the momentum.
- Research care needs to be seen as a specialty for the patient just as any other specialty.
- The research care that a patient receives is part of the overall care for that patient.
- Patient's safety is put at risk when clinicians are not able to get a full picture of the care that a patient is receiving.

Evolution of Research Documentation

Documentation in a paper chart



Documentation in Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Documentation in Research Nursing

- Study binders
- Regulatory documents
- Consent documents
- Study procedure documentation (vital signs, medication administration, PK blood draws and sample processing)

Paper Charting

Benefits

- Majority of Research Documentation remains Paper Charting
- Research Staff are comfortable with Paper Charting

Draw backs

- Documentation not easily accessible to everyone
- Other clinicians are not able to access the patient's research documentation when caring for the patient

Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Benefits

- All Patient Care information documented in one location
- All clinicians can access the information and find contact information for the study team

Draw backs

- Staff not being comfortable with electronic documentation
- Staff not being involved in the design of the EHR documentation

Research Module Implementation at CCHMC

- Governance team which includes all disciplines of research at CCHMC (i.e. physicians, research leadership, research nursing leadership, study coordinators,...)
- Subject matter experts involved in the design, communication and training (Research Nurses, study coordinators, leadership,).
- This is an integrated project so there has also been representation from all of the Information services team (ambulatory, inpatient,...)

Patient Safety and Patient Outcomes

- Care Coordination
- Clinician Collaboration
- Improved Communication
- Standardization of research documentation

Examples of how EHR can be used to promote patient safety and patient outcomes in research patients

- If a patient is active in a research study then information will display in the patient header.
- All clinicians can access this information and find contact information about the study.
- Study coordinators will receive an in basket notification that a patient has had an admit to the ED, urgent care or has an inpatient admit.
- Study coordinators are able to track and run reports of study enrollment.

Key Takeaways:

- Research Documentation needs to promote collaboration and communication between all clinicians involved in the patient's care.
- In order for there to be a standard process for documentation it is required that there is appropriate education and support to the staff who will be performing the documentation.
- I can speak from experience that in the past I was not given the appropriate education and support to feel comfortable documenting in the EHR.
- Having staff involved in the design of the EHR systems that will be used for documentation. This will promote staff being comfortable with the documentation and there will be more buy in from the staff.
- Documentation should promote the current workflows or allow for improvements of the current workflows.

Collaboration and Questions:

- Has there been a change from Paper Charting to EHR in your organization?
- How much research documentation is completed in the EHR?
- How many organizations have research documentation on paper and in an EHR?
- Lessons learned from your institution
- Questions??



Thank you!

References

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