Healthcare Organization Commitment

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
To decrease blindness due to retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) in Latin America. The process will be implemented as an "Actionable Neonatal Safety Solution". This will not directly decrease preventable neonatal deaths; however, measures implemented to decrease ROP have been clearly linked to improvement in overall neonatal care and, therefore, can indirectly improve neonatal survival.

Participants
Sergio Golombek MD
Ana Quiroga RN, MSN
Commitment Summary
The Ibero-American Society of Neonatology (SIBEN, www.siben.net) is a Not For Profit, Public Charity Organization exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). SIBEN’s mission is to improve neonatal health and decrease neonatal mortality in the Latin American region, mostly by education, improvement in quality of neonatal care and obtaining data and information that could be translated into action.
Countries in Latin America have significantly increased the number of neonatal units, sometimes without control, supervision or standards of care. In some places this has led to increased survival of preterm infant. However, oxygen administration and monitoring are very deficient in some areas and this has led to an increase of blinded children, the so called third epidemic of blindness due to ROP. The impact of such epidemic is devastating for each baby and for her or his family and also to society as a whole. Each surviving preterm infant will be blind for over the entire life span of more than 70 years on average. Considering the quality adjusted life years, if in one small region of Latin America there are 100 babies blinded due to ROP during the period of 1 year, this means that there would be 7000 blinded years entering society each year.
We aim to establish a process of adequate oxygen monitoring and management to decrease the gap between what is known and what newborn infants receive. Such process will lead to a decrease in the rates of severe ROP and blindness in Latin America, as we and others have shown it has happened in so called developed or industrialized nations.

Commitment Description & Detail
Obtain current rates of severe ROP
Education - practical workshops and training courses at each site for all members of the team of neonatal health care providers.
Topics: Physiology of oxygenation; damaging effects of hyperoxia, adequate SpO2 monitoring, intention to treat and alarm settings
Implementation of protocols
Supervision of compliance
Obtain rates of ROP after implementation

Action Plan
The three major highlights or landmarks in this involved process are: • We will obtain accurate data on ROP from neonatal units of Latin American countries and provide them with the information. • We will analyze practices related to oxygen administration and monitoring through surveys, direct observation and detailed and standardized techniques and patient safety methodology. • We will provide intensive education and implement
protocols for adequate use of oxygen and monitoring • We will show that severe ROP decreases significantly, and with it blindness will decrease.

Commitment Timeline
Obtain current rates of severe ROP - January-April 2016
Education for RN's and MD's - February 2016 - June 2017
Implementation of protocols - January - June 2017
Supervision of compliance - June 2016- December 2017
Obtain rates of ROP after implementation - June 2017 - January 2018