Healthcare Organization Commitment

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
APSS #9: Early Detection and Treatment of Sepsis

What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 9 - Early detection and treatment of sepsis

Commitment Start Date
01/01/2016

How Many Hospitals Will This Commitment Represent
Commitment Summary
Sepsis extracts a high toll of morbidity and mortality in children and adults alike. It is the leading cause of death in hospitalized children, claiming as many as 5,000 lives each year. Tens of thousands more children are treated for annually for sepsis, but that's not the end of it - at least half of survivors will be readmitted and over one-third of survivors of severe sepsis will develop a long term disability. The vast majority of pediatric sepsis is treated in a pediatric intensive care unit, and each hospitalization costs approximately $75,000. Nationally, sepsis has been estimated to consume 16% of pediatric inpatient expenditures. As one approach, CHOC Children's Hospital is one of some 50 national children's hospitals working together to both improve outcomes and reduce the incidence of severe sepsis and septic shock in children. We aim to reduce the incidence of severe sepsis and septic shock by 75% in three years locally and nationally, including the onset of hospital-onset sepsis. By increasing the awareness, detection and response to early findings of sepsis in children, we aim to decrease mortality by an additional 75% as well. Sepsis is often treatable, but early detection and action are key. The stakes are high to master the collective approach to this oft-understood and frequently very serious illness.

Commitment Description & Detail
CHOC is basing many of its efforts with the Children's Hospital Association Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) national collaborative. In this collaborative, best practices, monthly data submissions, and benchmarked reports for quality improvement and outcome enhancement are integrated locally and nationally over at least the next three years. An inpatient program is rolling out including efforts across the continuum from ED to medical, surgical and oncology wards, to intensive care units. These activities are in concert with those of the PSMF Sepsis APSS, with its details described herein. One specific tactic of the CHOC plan is the use of Sepsis Huddles when there are strong criteria (3 or more electronic triggers) or other suspicion of sepsis. This briefing includes the immediate clinical caregivers at the bedside and includes the formulation of an action plan. Parents and guardians are a part of that gathering, as possible. Furthermore, when possible, specific indicators of possible sepsis will be included in CHOC's already robust program to detect and prevent clinical deterioration, including non-ICU codes. In alignment with the Patient Safety Movement Foundation's Actionable Patient Safety Solutions (APSS) checklist, CHOC Children's Hospital is actively working on the below checklist items.

Action Plan
- Commitment from hospital governance and senior administrative leadership to support early detection and appropriate management of sepsis in their healthcare system. - Develop a team approach to implement a protocol for early sepsis identification and treatment. - Appoint an MD chairperson to be responsible and accountable for leading this group. - CHOC participates in the Children's Hospitals Association Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) national collaborative to reduce severe sepsis by 75% - CHOC IPSO
structure includes Steering, Operations and Unit-based committees - Implement a Sepsis
Rapid Response Team or incorporate early detection of sepsis into your existing medical
emergency teams (e.g. Rapid Response Teams). - Formalize a process to screen patients for
signs of sepsis throughout the entire institution. (In progress, although PEWS and RRT
criteria also capture the bulk of these) - IPSO screening currently in place in ED - Expands to
Hematology-Oncology and wards this year - Implement an effective monitoring system to
accomplish continuous monitoring and notification based on acute changes to the following
patient data: o Fever or Hypothermia (temperature age-based norms for pediatric
populations); o Tachypnea per age-based norms for pediatric populations; o Altered mental
status; o Hyperglycemia (per pediatric normative values) in the absence of diabetes; o
Leukocytosis or Leukopenia per age-based norms. Normal WBC count with greater than
10% immature forms; o Plasma C-reactive protein above the standardized value; o Plasma
procalcitonin more than two standard deviations above the normal value (N/A currently at
CHOC); o Hypotension per age-based pediatric norms; o Hypoxemia; o Acute oliguria (per
pediatric norms); o Thrombocytopenia; o Hyperlactatemia (> 2mmol/L [CHOC Children’s
Lab]); or o Prolonged capillary refill time or mottling. - Select an EHR to serve as a data
collection tool and repository for predicting risk of sepsis for patients. A system that
provides a data collection tool and allows for continuous analysis and surveillance will be
most beneficial. - Implementation of automated electronic screening based on existing data
(SIRS criteria, MEWS or any other warning system being used). - CHOC has used the
Pediatric Early Warning System (PEWS) for all inpatients since 2009. - Design a workflow
specific to level of alert: (In progress) o SIRS met – assess for infection. o If patient has sepsis
– increase monitoring or assessment for presence of severe sepsis. - Implement a process for
continuous monitoring of electronic systems and protocols: (In progress) o Compliance,
efficacy and outcome measures. - Implement case reviews for outliers. - For severe sepsis:
- Implement workflow for rapid assessment and intervention at the bedside. - Initiate severe
sepsis bundle (3 hour elements): - Obtain blood cultures prior to administration of
antibiotics. - Administer broad spectrum antibiotics. - Administer appropriate volume
expansion for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4 mmol/L. - Build electronic documentation of process
of care (fluids, antibiotics, clinical assessment etc.). - For septic shock: o Implement workflow
for rapid assessment, intervention and need for higher level of care. - Initiate septic shock
bundle (6 hour elements): - Apply vasopressors (for hypotension that does not respond to
initial fluid resuscitation to maintain a mean arterial pressure [MAP] ≥ low normal range for
age). - In the event of persistent hypotension despite volume resuscitation (Septic Shock) or
initial lactate ≥ 4 mmol/L (36 mg/dL): - Measure central venous pressure (CVP). - Measure
central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO2). - Remeasure lactate if initial lactate was elevated.

Commitment Timeline
CHOC Children’s will continue to work on these checklist items, international bundle
elements and more in our sepsis prevention program. Our commitment to this disease and
APSS is strong, ongoing, and will be reported to PSMF annually.

Impact Details

Lives Saved