

SEPSIS AWARENESS AMONG ONCOLOGY OUTPATIENTS

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Background Information: Every year in the United States sepsis kills more people than breast cancer, prostate cancer and AIDS (sepsis alliance). A group of perioperative nurses at a National Cancer Institution recognized the complexity and risk factors of sepsis in their patient population. Based on this recognition and need for sepsis awareness upon discharge a nursing collaborative was developed to evaluate best methods and tools for educating our patients on the signs and symptoms of sepsis.

Objectives of Project: Educate discharge nurses on the Teach Back Method to provide sepsis education. Include sepsis information in discharge teaching and standardize the sepsis education provided to our patients. Increase sepsis awareness among NonOR recovery patients.

Process of Implementation:

- Developed a nursing collaborative and established meeting dates and guidelines
- Conducted literature review
- Surveyed patients upon discharged regarding knowledge related to sepsis awareness
- Reviewed teach back method with each discharge nurse
- Collaborated with Patient Education to evaluate current sepsis resources for patients
- Collaborated with Critical Care physician to validate teaching tool and project methods
- Provided standardized education verbally and through handouts upon discharge

Statement of Successful Practice: Pre education survey results indicated that 79% of 104 patients surveyed in the Non OR Recovery area had never been provided information on sepsis. The post education and survey results show that the objectives of the project were met, as evident by feedback from patients, families and healthcare providers. Patients and families have an increased awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis, which is indicated in the call back reports that show 80% of patients responded that they were aware. Prior to our implementation only 21% of patients had been informed about sepsis and our project increased that by 59%. The feedback received from callback nurses also indicates increased awareness of signs and symptoms of sepsis by patients.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Providing standardized teaching methods on sepsis education for discharge nurses in the PACU, can increase knowledge and awareness of sepsis in post-operative patient population.