**BACKGROUND**

- The Pediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) is an established pediatric tool used to identify and trend pediatric patients at risk for clinical deterioration.
- PEWS provides an objective score and corresponding action plan based on a patient’s vital signs and current assessment.
- The PEWS Scoring system was previously validated and implemented in the ED, ICU, and Acute Care units.
- A need was identified to recognize perioperative patients at risk for clinical deterioration prior to transfer to acute care units leading to the implementation of PEWS in the PACU.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Identify perioperative patients at risk for clinical deterioration prior to transfer to Acute Care Units via an objective scoring tool utilized throughout the hospital.
- Follow corresponding action plan to guide the nurse and physician in determining the most accurate level of care for the patient.
- Provide the first PEWS score in the PACU prior to transfer to facilitate score trending.

**METHODS**

- PEWS tool modified and action plan developed for PACU use.
- PEWS Tool validated for use in the PACU.
  - Validation: 26 patients from 6 OR Services
  - Tool Evaluation:
    - Did the PEWS score accurately reflect the patient’s current acuity/condition?
    - Did the score prompt unnecessary additional assessment and intervention?
- Following validation, results were presented to the organization’s Resuscitation Committee for endorsement.
- Education to PACU nursing staff, anesthesia providers, and proceduralists followed endorsement for use in the PACU.
  - Education included:
    - Inclusion Categories
    - Scoring Criteria and Method
    - Action plan algorithm
- The organization received an email SBAR communication for awareness when implementation began.

**FIGURES**

PEWS (Pediatric Early Warning Score) in Perioperative Services

**OUTCOMES**

Since implementation in July of 2018, 5 pediatric perioperative patients have been identified as at risk for clinical deterioration prior to transfer to Acute Care Units with successful action plan steps followed.

**IMPLICATION TO PRACTICE**

Use of this tool in pediatric perioperative patients:

- Assists the PACU bedside nurse in providing objectivity to the subjectivity of patient acuity
- Encourages multidisciplinary collaboration to ensure appropriate resource utilization and post-operative care plans

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