

DON'T LET RESTRAINT DOCUMENTATION HOLD YOU BACK

Team Leader: Jillian Fetzner, BSN, RN
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

Team Members: Claudia Felder, BSN, RN; Cathy Prince, RN, CPAN; Michelle Swancer, LPN;
Jasmine Parham, BSN, RN; Erica Stefanik, BSN, RN

Restraint auditing revealed an opportunity for improvement in compliance of restraint documentation. Opportunities for improvement included documentation of a safety plan of care and thorough documentation of all fields on the restraint documentation flow sheet.

The objective was to increase compliance in the documentation of the restrained patient.

Restraint audits were performed by a team of PACU staff nurses. The auditing process included looking at hourly documentation of safe positioning and documentation of monitoring and interventions, for example circulation and skin checks, every two hours. The restraint audit team then provided education to the rest of the staff via email reminders to encourage proper restraint documentation. Education was also provided at the staff meetings and courtesy reminders were provided by team members at the bedside. Restrained patients were indicated as such via NaviCare, the computerized PACU throughput system to inform the charge nurse. The charge nurse assessed restraint documentation before patient discharge from PACU. Follow up auditing was completed after the education was provided.

Over 50 random audits were conducted over a 3 month period. There was a 38% increase in hourly position checks. Circulation and skin checks remained consistent. Finally, there was a 50% increase in the plan of care documentation.

Detailed documentation compliance ensures safety and comfort measures for the restrained patient. Ongoing education is the key to maintaining competency of restraint documentation protocols.