PACU CHECKLIST: AN ELECTRONIC REMINDER FOR DOCUMENTATION COMPLIANCE

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Background

Electronic documentation requires more technical skills and intuitive thinking to load patient data. Delays in entering data can result in corruption of the data and can cause delays in treatment or errors in treatment, as information that is not recorded at the time of delivery might be forgotten as the clinician moves to the next patient encounter (Kohle-Erhser et al, 2012). It was determined that PACU nurses from this institution were not meeting the standards on the required documentation elements resulting in inconsistent data to measure outcomes and some loss in revenues.

Objective

Investigate utilization of an electronic checklist assists in improving compliance in PACU nursing documentation.

Process of Implementation

Surveys were conducted to assess staff confidence level with EMR documentation compliance. Chart review and audits were performed to verify compliance. An educational plan was presented to create awareness on non-compliance to documentation elements as well as to educate on the use of electronic checklist.

Results and Outcomes

- Staff confidence level as "Very Confident" went from 6% to 34 %
- 85% of staff were in favor of the checklist
- Loss of revenues amounting to about $3000 for supplies was retrieve in an 8 month period
- Missing charges for unit cost is below 1%.

Implications for Practice

Creating a checklist in an EMR system improves documentation compliance by serving as a reminder for nurses, promoting continuity of care. The reminder also prevents loss of departmental revenues by informing users to be attentive of unit charges.