The Basics: Consistent Early Onset Sepsis and Antibiotic Education for Caregivers

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Problem

- Hospital’s NICU and General Care Nursery have non-standardized education for providers to give to parents and families regarding early onset sepsis and the use of antibiotics.
- Inconsistent education can contribute to misunderstandings and inhibit support to the patients’ families.
- Education to caregivers is variable when there is a transfer of care for infants between units during the same hospitalization period.
- Inconsistent messaging leads to decreased family satisfaction and trust in the care provided.

Project Implementation

Generalist Entry Masters Nursing Students worked with NICU Leadership to create educational handouts about Early Onset Sepsis and Broad Spectrum Antibiotics.

- Process used:
  - 1. Research: Literature Review and Baseline Assessment
  - 2. Survey Key Stakeholders
  - 3. Analyze feedback and research
  - 4. Create Drafts (English and Spanish)
  - 5. Review Drafts with key Stakeholders
  - 6. Review from Family Advisory Council and Patient Education Committee
  - Review and Repeat 1-6 as needed as PDSA cycles
  - 7. Approval by Quality and Safety Committee
  - 8. Education provided to staff
  - 9. “Go Live” with Printed Materials

Results

- Steps 1-5 completed after 5 PDSA cycles
- Step 6: Handouts are on Family Advisory Council Meeting Agenda, however it was determined Go-Live plans would not be placed on hold.
- Hospital’s Patient Education Committee approved resources and started translation to Spanish while Steps 7 and 8 pending
- “Go Live” Early November 2021

Conclusions

- The process to create and standardize patient/family education yielded two handouts for use by all providers. Caregivers of infants with Early Onset Sepsis or Rule-out Sepsis in the NICU and General care Nursery will receive consistent care plan and education across the institution.
- This is particularly helpful for caregivers whose babies have a transfer of care between units during hospitalization.

Acknowledgements/Hospital Team

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