Posterior Lumbar Fusion Pathway

The Problem

The process of decision making, acceptable interventions and outcomes in the post operative course in patients undergoing posterior lumbar fusion was not fully understood by all staff resulting in communication issues for both the hospital staff and the patients. This resulted in inefficient care with increased cost.

Aim/Goal

This clinical pathway was intended to assist in the clinical decision making by describing a range of generally acceptable interventions and outcomes. The guidelines attempt to define practices that meet the needs of most patient under most circumstances and to optimize processes to deliver care that is safe, effective, efficient, timely, patientcentered and equitable.

The Team

- This was a multi-disciplinary effort that involved:
- •Health care quality
- Nursing
- •Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy
- •Division of Neurosurgery
- •Department of Orthopaedics
- •The BIDMC "Spine Center"
- •Case Management
- Anesthesia

Interventions

•Design and implementation Posterior Lumbar Fusion pathway.

- •Incorporation of guidelines to meet the needs in the majority of patients
- •1 month trial of pathway





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Examples of Long Term Improvements

Decreased length of stay with decreased cost to patient and hospital
Reduction in communication errors
Improved pain management for the patient

•Early mobilization of patients thus reducing adverse nosocomial events

Next Steps

- •Continue with current interventions involving patient care.
- •Incorporation of pathway order set into Provider Order Entry.
- •Ongoing assessment of pathway to achieve long term goals.

For More Information Contact Michael Schweid, PA-C

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