Automating Patient Transport Form

The Problem

Duplication of documentation exists within the Patient Transport Process leading to inefficient use of time and potential for avoidable transcription error. At present, when a patient leaves an inpatient unit for a scheduled test, the RN and UCO complete a Patient Transport Status form. Much of this information is available electronically but is currently documented manually.

Aim/Goal

To promote efficiency by eliminating time associated with duplicative documentation and improve patient safety by reducing opportunity for transcription error.

The Team

- Tricia Bourie, RN, MS
- Nan Zullo, Information Systems
- Nursing Documentation Committee

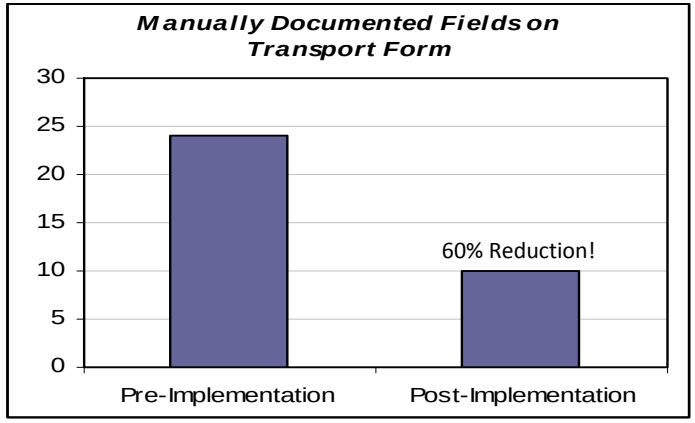
The Interventions

The team set out to develop and implement a patient transport form which extracts patient data directly from existing electronic systems [POE, RN Kardex, and the Initial Patient Assessment (IPA)]. This would decrease the number of fields to complete on the form, and display up-to-date orders and patient information. This form would be available for "on demand" printing by a Unit Coordinator or RN. Tasks included:

- Identification of data elements required for safe patient transport
- Determination of electronic source of necessary data elements
- Collaboration with IS programming to develop form based upon current approved Medical Record form
- Education of staff regarding changes

The Results/Progress to Date

- *Automated Transport form implemented in April 2010*



Lessons Learned

- Font size is important for readability by sending and receiving staff
- Using familiar formatting design facilitates staff transition.
- Initiative was welcomed by staff as it reduced work and made use of available information

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

- Continue to look for new opportunities to automate daily work

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For More Information Contact
Tricia Bourie, RN, MS
tbourie@bidmc.harvard.edu