Program/Project Description: What was the problem to be solved? How was it identified? What baseline data existed? What were the goals—how would you know if you were successful?
This protocol was developed to standardize the process for withdrawing ventilator support (not weaning) for very ill patients, primarily in an ICU setting. It was developed after many conversations where staff did not have a comfortable approach for doing this, leaving them with the feeling of "having given the last dose" of medication, feeling inadequately prepared, and not knowing how to explain the process to a family.

Process: What methodology or process was used to develop the Solution?
Research in best practices/benchmarks for successful, safe and compassionate ventilator withdrawals.

Solution: What Solution was developed? How was it implemented?
Standardized ventilator withdraw protocol; it was implemented through education, one-on-one training and being present for the process.

Measurable Outcomes: What are the results of implementing the Solution? Provide qualitative and/or quantitative results to data. (Please include graphs, charts, or tools as attachments.)
Results are a standardized, familiar process for staff. Also, there are now routine meetings with families of these patients to answer questions, explain the process, and provide support and the comfort of knowing that you have provided a compassionate and safe way of removing life support.

Sustainability: What measures are being taken to ensure that results can be sustained and spread?
This approach is currently being used, and we continue to evaluate the process to determine if any changes need to be made. This type of process/protocol is going to be utilized throughout the system, not just at a single hospital site.

Role of Collaboration and Leadership: What role did teamwork and collaboration play in the Solution? What partners and participants were involved? Was the organization's leadership engaged and did they share the vision for success? How was leadership support demonstrated?
The vision for this project included involvement from a multi-disciplinary team of individuals working together to make sure all needs of the patient and family were met during this process. This included a physician, social worker, pharmacist and nursing. We partnered with ICU staff to make sure that this process worked in real time, and their feedback was utilized to make the form useful. We have been supported by leadership.
Innovation: What makes this Solution innovative? What are its unique attributes?
The development of a standardized approach that not only includes medications and processes, but also takes into account the communication and thought process behind the action. It ensures that the proper parties have been involved and due diligence is clearly identifiable to anyone involved.

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